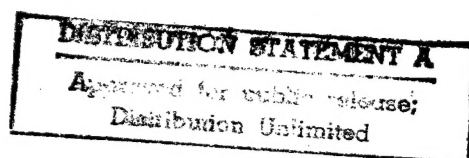


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Latin America Report



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6 February 1984

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ELECTRONORTE SEEKS 412 BILLION CRUZEIROS TO INAUGURATE TUCURUI

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Brasilia--The Northern Brazil Electric Power Stations Corporation (ELETRONORTE) needs 412 billion cruzeiros to inaugurate the first stage of the Tucurui plant on 22 November, according to a document submitted by its president, Douglas Luz, to General Costa Cavalcanti, president of the Brazilian Electric Power Stations (ELETROBRAS); and in the event that funds are lacking, there will be rationing of energy in the northern part of the country in 1985.

According to ELETRONORTE spokesman Mauricio Coelho, if Tucurui does not enter into operation on the scheduled date, two 26-megawatt thermoelectric units, which are in Belem, will not be transferred to Manaus because of the poor reliability of the 1,800-kilometer line linking Sobradinho, on the Sao Francisco River, to the capital of Para.

Since the consumption of energy is increasing at a rate of 28 percent per year in Amazonas and ELETRONORTE is facing serious problems for the importation of replacement parts for the existing thermal plants, the deactivation of the Para Thermal plants and their transfer to Amazonas would be the only way to supply the demand for an already overloaded system, according to Mauricio Coelho.

In the event that Tucurui does not go into operation in 1984 as scheduled, by 1985 the installed capacity will not cover consumption and there will not be any solution other than rationing, with serious detriment to economic activity in Amazonas and particularly in the Manaus Free Zone.

ELETRONORTE has not yet received any official notification from ELETROBRAS regarding this year's grant but believes it will receive the 412 billion cruzeiros requested because Tucurui is priority one in the state holding company's projects for electric energy and the date for inauguration of the plant was set with the concurrence of President Joao Figueiredo himself.

Less than 15 percent of the civil works remain to be done in the dam, concrete work and installation of the machinery for completion of the plant. Coelho added that the delay of Tucurui can also result in the rationing of energy in the Northeast in 1986 and 1987 because of the great delay in the Itaparica hydroelectric plant project.

8711

CSO: 3342/52

FIRST WOOD ALCOHOL PLANT TO BE INAUGURATED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Brasilia--The first wood alcohol plant installed in Brazil will be inaugurated by President Figueiredo in Uberlandia, on the 25th with the entry into operation of the industrial demonstration unit for the production of wood alcohol, which will produce 30,000 liters daily of hydrated alcohol for automotive use.

The unit was developed by the Center for the Development of Coke and Wood Alcohol Technology, Incorporated (COALBRA), which also maintains a study and training center on the subject and experimental planting and fertilizer-irrigated planting areas. In its first phase, the plant will operate 340 days a year, producing 1,420 kilos daily of furfural (a solvent for the chemical industry) in addition to alcohol.

Also this year, COALBRA is going to install a semi-industrial demonstration plant for the lignin coke production process, which will produce 10,200 tons annually of metallurgical coal on the basis of the solid residue of the wood alcohol extraction process.

COALBRA, a mixed economy company connected with the Ministry of Agriculture, was created for the purpose of supplying part of domestic fuel needs. It uses wood as a raw material which can be gathered all year and cultivated in less fertile land, not competing with the production of food, under adverse climatic conditions, and creating permanent jobs.

The COALBRA plant is going to use eucalyptus wood as a basic raw material while pine logs and other vegetable residues are tested through the hydrolysis of wood by the use of diluted, heated, sulfuric acid. The company pledges that it will not eject polluting wastes into the waters of the region because the residue resulting from the industrial process will be recycled for use as fertilizer.

8711

CSO: 3342/52

PROALCOHOL GOAL FOR 1989-90 JEOPARDIZED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Jan 84 p 26

[Text] Brasilia--The National Alcohol Program (PROALCOHOL) runs the serious risk of not being able to fulfill the goals established by Industry and Commerce Minister Camilo Penna for its third stage, namely, a production of 14.3 billion liters of alcohol for the 1989-90 crop. The reason is that the economic authorities do not have the funds to fulfill the requirements of the World Bank, according to which the new \$300-million loan that it will grant to the program will only be issued if the Brazilian Government guarantees a counterpart of 35 percent of the total amount of those funds in cruzeiros, that is, \$105 million.

According to a Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC) source, the World Bank has already officially notified Minister Camilo Penna that once that essential matter is resolved, the money will immediately be at the disposal of the Bank of Brazil to take care of the producers, who in turn are waiting for those funds to modify their production timetables, setting them in line with the goal set by the minister.

The biggest difficulty, however, is to get the authorization of Finance Minister Ernane Galveas and Planning Minister Delfim Netto to transfer \$105 million from the treasury at a time when its cash situation is shaky and everything is dependent on the release of the funds of foreign creditors. Until the \$6.5-billion "jumbo loan" with the bankers is settled, the situation will remain undefined. In addition, the release of the funds may have to be submitted to a second cabinet source, to a possible new evaluation by the economic authorities regarding whether or not it is necessary to give priority to the program since the prospects of the recovery of the economy are completely unpredictable, with direct repercussion on the production of alcohol-fueled cars.

The unpredictability of the behavior of the economy may lead the government to channel the funds available in the treasury to the only activities with favorable prospects, which are exports and agriculture for export. Among those, cane is excluded because the prospects for the sugar sector this year depend above all on the recovery of the price of sugar in the world market, which can only occur if it is possible to sign an international agreement among the producer and consumer countries.

In the meantime, everything is in abeyance but there are good indications that the agreement may emerge with the participation of the largest world producer of sugarbeet sugar, the European Economic Community, the absence of which has been indicated as the main reason for the failure of previous attempts to try to recover prices through joint action, as occurs with the International Coffee Agreement.

The gradual withdrawal of subsidies to agriculture voted by the European Economic Community may contribute to hastening its entry into the agreement now. With the high subsidies for production, it was not interested in participating in any joint action; quite the contrary. Now, Minister Camilo Penna believes that the situation has changed substantially in favor of the developing producer countries.

But if, regardless of that, the price of the product does not recover because there is overproduction in the market and if the production of alcohol-fueled vehicles is reduced as a result of the decline in demand caused by the economic crisis--two alternatives which MIC experts themselves agree cannot be discounted--Minister Damilo Penna's difficulties in convincing Minister Delfim Netto to release the \$105 million will increase. If the \$105 million is not released, the World Bank will not release the \$300-million loan.

8711

CSO: 3342/52

ENAP REPORTS 1983 GAS, OIL OUTPUT, PLANS FOR 1984

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p A-1, A-12

[Article by Francisco Eterovic]

[Text] Punta Arenas--Oil production will total 2,285,000 cubic meters this year, the third highest amount in the history of ENAP [National Petroleum Enterprise], its manager, Oscar Schneider Riquelme, announced at the celebration marking the 38th anniversary of the discovery of oil in Chile.

He added that the Offshore Operation in the Strait of Magellan accounted for 74 percent of the output, with the onshore deposits accounting for the remaining 26 percent.

Schneider Riquelme spoke at a ceremony at noon yesterday to celebrate "Petroleum Day." It was attended by civilian, military and labor authorities.

He said that ENAP has produced more than 48 million cubic meters of oil since 1945.

With regard to the manufacture of liquified gas, he indicated that the Posesion and Cullen plants processed 4.26 billion cubic meters of natural gas in 1983 to produce 454,000 cubic meters of the liquified gas.

"With the hydrocarbons production from the Strait of Magellan, we are meeting 55 percent of the nation's needs in oil derivatives. This is the highest percentage since the Offshore Project, the most important in our history, started up," he stated.

He reported that 21 rigs have been installed in the strait, 18 of which are in full production.

Gas Utilization

An offshore gas processing and recompression station was brought on line this year, the ENAP manager went on to say. It separates

the gas that emerges in association with crude oil, recompresses it and sends it for processing to the Cullen plant, which yields propane, butane and casinghouse gasoline.

He also said that this year ENAP put into service a 6-inch, 33-kilometer long pipeline linking the Cabo Negro terminal on the mainland and the one on Tierra del Fuego. It can also transport propane, butane and other products from the island to the mainland.

Plans for 1984

He then referred to the tasks awaiting ENAP in 1984: "Three new drilling rigs will go on line, in Posesion Tres, Daniel Este-Dungenes Uno and Pejerrey Uno. We will also be drilling additional wells at the Spiteful Norte Uno rig."

In addition, 14 exploratory wells will be drilled, 2 between the first and second narrows and 12 in the area east of the first narrows.

With regard to onshore exploration and development, he said that two seismic units would continue in operation, one in the western part of the basin on the mainland and the other in southern Tierra del Fuego.

Thirteen exploratory wells are also scheduled to be drilled on the mainland and in southern Tierra del Fuego, in addition to 20 development wells on the island and on the mainland.

Oscar Schneider later mentioned that in 1984 "our specialists and experts from BEICIP, an affiliate of the French Petroleum Institute, will study the deposits that are currently in production and propose for each of them a technically and economically justified secondary recovery program."

"We hope to substantially increase the recovery percentage of original 'in situ' reserves."

With regard to natural gas processing projects, he reported that negotiations continued in 1983 with two groups of investors, one of which is interested in producing fertilizers and ammonium-urea and the other, methanol.

"We have succeeded in reaching agreement on the basic points of future contracts. The two groups of investors are now working on getting financing for the processing plants. We hope that by the middle of next year this stage is over and the final contracts will have been formalized."

BRIEFS

OIL DISTRIBUTION VESSEL--GUYANA Oil Company [Guyoil] has acquired a vessel to boost the distribution of petroleum products, particularly to those customers in reverain areas. The "Esso Guyana" now renamed M.T. "Guysupplier" is undergoing some rehabilitation work at Guyana National Engineering Corporation and will be put into operation early in 1984. Guyoil said that the vessel which has a capacity of 35 000 gallons will lay down supplies at those customer bulk storage points which are now being serviced by road tank wagons and which are accessible by river. "This relief on the road tank wagon fleet is most desirable because the fleet is very depleted at this time, thus rendering it incapable of meeting all the requirements on schedule", a spokesman said. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Dec 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/368

OIL DRILLING EQUIPMENT TO BE SOLD TO USSR

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Nov 83 p 3

[Article by Hernan Rodriguez Molina, EXCELSIOR correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Nov--Mexico will sell oil drilling equipment to the USSR, according to what Luis Cabrera Cuaron, IMCE [Mexican Foreign Trade Institute] representative in Moscow, reported to EXCELSIOR.

He emphasized that for the first time, the USSR considers Mexico a supplier of oil drilling equipment. He added: Right now this means industrial valves for oil and gas well regulating equipment. I think it is very important for my country that the primary oil producer in the world and a major gas exporter like the USSR has accepted our technology in this field. It is a door to the future in this area.

Cabrera Cuaron was interviewed by this correspondent since he will soon leave his mission in Moscow. He has been there for 3 years. His replacement, Eduardo Fuentes, also participated in the interview. He was very interested in the work IMCE does in this country which, with 275 million inhabitants, is an almost unexplored field of commercial prospects for Mexico.

Cabrera Cuaron stated that IMCE is determined to make Mexico one of the Latin American countries that have an annual economic exchange with the USSR of between \$200 million and \$300 million like Colombia, Peru and Brazil. It is barely \$30 million for Mexico now.

Cabrera Cuaron explained that one of the main problems he has encountered in his work here in Moscow is the lack of commercial flexibility on both sides but he added that serious efforts are being made to resolve the problems. One is that there are plans in Mexican foreign trade policy to diversify the markets, especially with socialist countries. He told us that trade with the socialist bloc is very advantageous for Mexico.

The trade balance with the USSR is about \$20 million in our favor and \$10 million in its favor; that is clear enough. To reach the desired figure of \$300 million we will need to end Mexico's inertia in trading with certain areas.

Other topics concerning trade were also discussed during the interview. Cabrera Cuaron stressed the progress achieved in the meetings that the bilateral

committee on commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries has held. He emphasized that there is still much to be done since Mexico has many possibilities of expanding its trade with the USSR as well as with the socialist countries in CEMA which is based in Moscow. However, I repeat that we must diversify the market and stop thinking traditionally. I already mentioned the oil drilling equipment. They are also interested in Mexican gas presses.

Cabrera Cuaron stated that, in the 3 years he has been at the head of IMCE, he was able to verify the magnitude of the Soviet market. He concluded that the 275 million inhabitants and the enormous buying power are very important for us Mexicans who are going through a difficult economic crisis.

7717

CSO: 3248/310

FNM, UNION FOCUS ON ISSUE OF PLP 'DISCRIMINATION'

Isaacs on PLP 'Threats'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

DEALING with statements made in the House of Assembly yesterday by PLP MP Valentine Grimes, condemning Mr Cecil Wallace-Whitfield for supposedly calling for "civil disobedience," Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs corrected the MP for misquoting Mr Whitfield and pointed out several threats made to the Opposition and the Bahamas by the governing PLP.

According to Mr Grimes, Mr Whitfield called for civil disobedience by Bahamians. Mr Grimes said that this was a threatening statement. However Mr Isaacs pointed out that this is not exactly what Mr Whitfield said.

What Mr Whitfield said was: "We (FNM's) may have to take to marching in the street and to a programme of civil disobedience to protest against victimization and discrimination practised against our fellow citizens."

Saying that government obviously has a short memory, Mr Isaacs recalled Black Tuesday when the Prime Minister threw the mace out of the House of Assembly window and when hundreds of thousands of peo-

ple demonstrated in a "rather large measure of civil disobedience" under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

Mr Isaacs also recalled remarks made by the Prime Minister on June 11, 1982 when he made a very "naked threat" against the opposition, senior civil servants, Grand Bahamians and middle class Bahamians.

At that time the Prime Minister threatened to "smash" the opposition, Mr Isaacs reminded the House.

"The Prime Minister made more of a threat against a large section of the Bahamian community than the member for Pine Ridge," Mr Isaacs said. He pointed out that the threat against the Opposition means that the Prime Minister must be headed towards a one-party state.

Another threat made by the Prime Minister, Mr Isaacs said, was that of compiling a PLP register of business and skilled persons and making this register available to Government Ministers.

The Opposition Leader also condemned the Prime Minister for stating that only PLP members will be employed at the new hotel. He pointed out that the Prime Minister also said that he was going to run the country for the benefit of PLP only.

"Opposition supporters pay taxes in the same way that PLP supporters pay taxes and it is against their fundamental rights for the Prime Minister to attempt to exclude, by public employment, 60% of the people of this country," Mr Isaacs said.

He said that every House member should join forces and condemn the Prime Minister for the remarks he has made. Mr Isaacs then said he wondered if the people would not be justified in displaying civil disobedience.

Mr Isaacs also said that in his Budget Communication, Deputy Prime Minister AD Hanna went out of his way to talk about patriotism. Mr Isaacs questioned whether Mr Hanna was rebuking the Prime Minister for his remarks. Mr Isaacs expressed the hope that the DPM's remarks would prevail over those made by the Leader.

Situation in Welfare Services

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Dec 83 p 5

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

HOUSING and National Insurance Minister Hubert Ingraham declared today that there is no discrimination by the Department of Social Services when it comes to dealing with poor and disadvantaged Bahamians.

He said that the whole question of funding welfare services require urgent attention by the government because of the vast number of fund-raising efforts by charitable organizations in the country.

The first person to speak on the budget at the start of the second day of debate, Mr Ingraham said that the fact that unemployment is high increases the number of recipients of aid from the Social Services Department.

He said that if full employment is reached tomorrow, there still would be a need for public assistance for the old and disabled.

He said that the department was established with the primary function and objective of assisting children and families in distress and that steps will be taken to ensure that the department's functions are expanded on a national basis.

He said that the Unemployment Loans programme has been redefined and different rules now apply.

He said that there has been a reduction in expenditure for unemployment loans from \$675,575 in 1982 to \$294,263 so far.

He also said that unemployed persons will be offered employment wherever there is an unmet need in society but

that the department cannot possibly respond to all of the applicants in that way at the same time.

He also said that a rent assistance programme has been introduced to assist the truly needy, who will be determined by trained personnel.

During 1983, the food ration was abolished in the Family Islands and replaced with the same programme as in New Providence. He said that \$823,510 has been provided for food assistance for needy persons throughout the community.

He said that a variety of programmes have been developed in relation to child neglect, abuse and abandonment and that foster care allowance has been increased from \$15 to \$21.

Mr Ingraham said that the department is seeking responsible people as adoptive parents.

In 1984, Mr Ingraham said, the Department of Social Services and the Ministry of Housing will spend \$300,000 on grants to charity work to benefit the deserving people in the community.

The charitable organizations to receive the grants are the Salvation Army, the Children's Emergency Hostel, Rosetta House, the Bahamas Council on Alcoholism and the Grand Bahama Children's Home, among others.

"It is evident to me that from the vast number of fund-raising efforts by charitable organisations, that the whole question of funding welfare requires urgent attention," Mr Ingraham said.

He said that in the area of

food assistance, four or five different groups in society have provided such assistance, while in the Salvation Army, there is no programme of temporary shelter or housing for displaced persons.

"The Government will attempt to implement and coordinate this work for the benefit of all concerned," he said, commending the organizations for their work and promised continued cooperation in this and many other worthwhile projects in this regard.

Mr Ingraham also said his ministry will look into the situation in 1984 of people putting their elderly in homes such as the Persis Rodgers Home for the Aged and then collecting their national insurance benefits.

He also said that he will have a professional review the facts and circumstances of such instances and make recommendations to the government.

He said that the alcoholic who takes his money to buy liquor also will be checked on.

Mr Ingraham said that during 1984, a public rental programme will continue in the depressed areas of New Providence and the senior citizens units also will be expanded.

During the first half of next year, Mr Ingraham said he will have a comprehensive means study done on housing as a White Paper as a means of establishing a national housing policy in the Bahamas.

Mr Ingraham said it is absolutely essential for there to be as near agreement as possible on the policy.

He said government is on the right course in housing and will see the fruits of its labour in years to come.

Hiring Pressure

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Dec 83 p 5

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

THE SHADOW Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and FNM representative for Clarence Town, Long Island told fewer than ten members attending the afternoon session of the House of Assembly yesterday that the shrimp farming project at Long Island is being "pressured to hire only PLP's."

Mr Jimmy Knowles, reporting "reliable information," said he was told that a PLP personnel list was being prepared and will be given to top persons at the shrimp project. Mr Knowles said that these top persons are being pressured to hire only those persons whose names appear on the list.

"From a reliable source, I am told that this list is being prepared by PLP generals in Long Island to ensure that only PLPs are hired to work on the project," the Member of Parliament said.

In opening his budget debate yesterday, Mr Knowles was the only FNM parliamentarian present in the House. About five PLP members were present, and the House's public gallery was empty except for police officers and members of the press. Mr Knowles suggested that this was the case because proceedings in another place were more "intriguing."

Commending the PLP representative for Acklins and Crooked Island, Wilbert Moss for being "refreshingly honest" when he told the House about the unbearable conditions at Acklins, Mr Knowles told the House of the same conditions prevailing in Clarence Town.

He described the public dock as a "death-trap" and said that persons going to meet the mailboat are usually afraid of being seriously injured if it should collapse into the water.

"But gross neglect is the pattern throughout this country and any member saying

otherwise is either ill-informed or dishonest," Mr Knowles said, adding that 15 years ago islands like Long Island, Exuma and Abaco had good roads and the dock in Clarence Town was in good condition.

"What does it take for a Member to get something done in his constituency?" Mr Knowles asked. "It's obvious that it doesn't take being a PLP as the good member for Acklins pointed out. People in Clarence Town will now understand that there are other constituencies that are in as bad a state as they are and PLP constituencies at that," Mr Knowles said.

Pointing out that a drive in Long Island, which took 1½ hours in 1967, now takes 4-5 hours. Mr Knowles told PLP House members, who were chuckling at some of his comments, that what is said in the House is serious and that the plight of the Bahamian people is no laughing matter.

He said that a water system installed in Deadman's Cay in 1966 is in dire need of repair because it has been "grossly neglected" by Government. Mentioning the fact that Minister of Works Loftus Roker announced recently that \$200,000 will be spent on installing a water system in San Salvador, Mr Knowles said that although he would like to see San Salvador residents get a water system, he felt that government should get their priorities right.

"I feel that they should maintain a system already installed before it reaches a stage where it is virtually useless. Already the water coming out of the pipe smells and in my view, is a health hazard," Mr Knowles said.

Mr Knowles condemned the section of the budget Communication on Agriculture and Fisheries as "utter nonsense"

Mr Knowles challenged Minister of Agriculture George Smith or the Parliamentary Secretary and member for St John's to tell the public what progress has been made at the \$3.7 million Potters Cay Fishing complex over the past year and what plans they have for the project in the coming year.

Mr Knowles said that after a guided tour of the complex, he learned that the million dollar building is only being used to make ice.

"Selling ice, Mr Speaker, big deal! \$3.7 million ice! In my opinion that money could have been used to purchase about 300 small fishing boats for our young people to make a living with. What is happening with this million dollar investment that was completed in March. Nothing," Mr Knowles said.

and said that although he would like everything mentioned to happen, he doesn't think it will because "the PLP don't intend to do any of it. They will decide what is best politically and then waste the people's money," Mr Knowles said.

"There is no way that we in the Bahamas can produce quality beef at a competitive price per pound," Mr Knowles said. "We could produce good mutton and very good crops although it will be difficult to compete with foreign markets. It could be done, however not with the present attitude of the government," Mr Knowles said.

Mr Knowles also complained to the House about the sporadic mailboat service to Clarence Town and said that farmers with crops in the field never know when to reap because they aren't sure which day the mailboat may come.

BCPOU Slap at Batelco

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Dec 83 p 8

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

THE BAHAMAS Communications and Public Officers Union has called on The Bahamas Telecommunication Corporation to put into effect its constitutional responsibility of providing essential service to the public, regardless of the expense or profitability.

Pointing out that without the availability of telecommunication services there can be no "meaningful development" in the country, the BCPOU stressed that it is important that Batelco operate in accordance with "sound business practices."

"Despite the improvement work being done by Batelco, much remains to be done and there are still public complaints about the service provided by the Corporation. For instance," a BCPOU release said, "we have had reports that the new telephone equipment installed in Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, is not yet working properly. To make matters worse, there is a shortage of technical staff and the workers, as usual, are being harassed and

blamed by the public for less than satisfactory service in that area, something for which they are not responsible."

The BCPOU said that Batelco is not able to meet all the demands for the installation of telephones. They also said that when a telephone is installed, it is not done for who needs it, but for "who one is or who one knows."

"The BCPOU is not a political organization, and has no interest in partisan politics. The BCPOU is fundamentally opposed to political discrimination under any circumstances as it is not only undemocratic and unconstitutional, but also unchristian. The powers that be need to be reminded that they are servants of the people and custodians of their welfare," the union release said.

Union President Charles Bethel was one of the invited speakers at the official opening of the new administrative building of Batelco and the commissioning of the six new digital telephone exchanges by the Prime Minister last week Thursday.

In his speech Mr Bethel questioned Batelco's order of priority when one considers that Andros now boasts some of the most modern and most sophisticated telephone facilities in the country while residents of the more developed islands of Spanish Wells "continue to suffer from the lack of adequate and up-to-date telephone service."

"Simply stated," the union said, "despite the fact that Spanish Wells is part of a constituency which 'stepped' during the general elections last year and for the first time in history returned a PLP representative to Parliament and, consequently, is not considered to be a PLP constituency, according to the professed PLP philosophy, it is not entitled to the same consideration as another area that may happen to have a longer association with the PLP."

"For the record," the union said, "the PCPOU does not begrudge the modern telephone system that Andros enjoys. In fact, the point the BCPOU wishes to make is not that Andros, or any other island for that matter, is not entitled to the best telephone facilities available. But it seems to be good economic sense, if nothing else, to give due consideration to areas like Spanish Wells, where there is much more of a demand for such services and where the economic conditions are such that Batelco stands a better chance of recouping its investment as well as a profit that could be used to defray the cost of servicing other less profitable areas like Andros. Surely the Minister (Loftus Roker) is honest enough to admit that it is not realistic to expect Batelco to even recover its investment in such expensive equipment in Andros in the foreseeable future."

TUC Concern

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] THE BAHAMAS Trade Union Congress is "greatly disturbed" over reports that Bahamians are being denied the right to work because of their political beliefs. The union has called on all Bahamians to protest loudly whenever an injustice is done.

The TUC said it has received reports about persons being denied jobs at the new Cable Beach Hotel, "a hotel owned by the people of the Bahamas through the Hotel Corporation."

The TUC mentioned in particular the case of Miss Judy Mae Lewis who was hired at the new Hotel and then fired when it was discovered that she was not a PLP supporter.

"To date the TUC is not aware of any official denial of Miss Lewis' claim and therefore we are forced to conclude that her claim is substantially correct. We are supported in this belief by the attitude of the Government which has said that those persons who opposed the construction of the hotel should not expect to work there," the TUC said.

"If the reports of the hiring practices of the new hotel are true then they should be condemned in the strongest terms by all fair-minded Bahamian citizens."

Saying it regrets that government seems unable to distinguish between "narrow politics and national concern," the TUC reminded government that once elected it becomes a government of all the people.

"We also wish to remind the Government that it is sworn to uphold the Constitution, and one of the fundamental rights in the Constitution is that no one is to be discriminated against because of political beliefs."

The TUC said that to the best of its knowledge the new hotel will be paid for from the Public Treasury and not from party political funds. "Since this is so, then the firing of workers from the hotel should be based on one's ability and qualifications and not on partisan political considerations."

The TUC also said that it is aware of the deep divisions and tensions that discrimination by governments can create and said it did not want to see this happen in the Bahamas. The TUC urged government to renounce its present policies with regard to political hirings and instead take those measures which would lead to a reduction of tensions in the country.

"The TUC wishes to impress upon the Bahamian people that they too have a responsibility to see to it that their government acts fairly. Merely wringing one's hands or complaining to one's neighbours will not be sufficient to curb the abuses of any government. Citizens must be prepared to protest loudly when injustices are done because once a pattern of discrimination and victimization is established it becomes very difficult to reverse the trend. The Bahamian people must learn to stand up for their own rights and the rights of others, if they wish to remain a free and sovereign people."

CSO: 3298/373

SOFOFA PRESIDENT REJECTS REPORT ON INVESTMENT RISKS

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Dec 83 pp C-1, C-4

[Text] The president of the Industrial Development Association (SOFOFA), Ernesto Ayala, yesterday dismissed the report of the American firm Frost-Sullivan that indicates that U.S. companies that would like to invest overseas next year would run risks in Chile and Peru. The SOFOFA leader called this "most absurd."

"Hundreds of companies have invested in our country," he noted, adding that he thought that the report would not adversely affect foreign investment because it was of no consequence. "Industrialists overseas are above such reports," he said.

Chile's economy "will continue to deteriorate," according to the document.

Ayala met yesterday with Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle to convey to him the greetings of the Board of Directors he heads and to report on the overseas trips that he has been on recently.

"We Chilean industrialists wanted to tell him that we are very pleased that he is in this post. He is a man who has demonstrated his spirit of public service to the country, and I think that he is going to do a very good job," Ayala stated.

The SOFOFA president pointed out that the trend in national output has improved gradually in recent months. "If we compare the last quarter of 1982 to this one, we can see that this year's is better. The position of Chilean industry has improved in relative terms. We are still very backward, but improving little by little. Some trade unions are still in very bad shape," he indicated.

When asked about the prospects for 1984, Ayala contended that "there is going to be long, slow growth."

He said that when SOFOFA argues that a major domestic effort must be made to reactivate the economy, its aim is to prevent the country from thinking that "manna is going to fall to us from heaven."

"I'm back from the Orient, and we reported to the minister. In the Orient people work Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. So you have to work a lot harder without a weekend that begins on Friday, as will happen tomorrow at noon," he added.

He specified that this appeal is aimed at executives, ministers and workers alike. "This business of early weekends, of making the country an ongoing weekend does not happen in the countries that are moving forward," he stated.

Ayala stated that he agreed with Finance Minister Carlos Caceres's comments about keeping customs duties at 20 percent. He went on to say that "we are partly protectionist. We do not advocate a ban on imports, but we do want an appropriate tariff."

According to him, a total recovery of domestic industry would take another 3 years or so.

Five-Year Plan

With regard to the 5-year plan that the government is preparing to reactivate the economy, Ayala said that he was not familiar with it because it has not yet been submitted to his group.

Concerning what SOFOFA would ask for or recommend in drafting it, he said: "Mainly prudence, I think. For a long time now we industrialists have been calling for prudence and simple, permanent ground rules in the economy."

"Prudence came into the picture only about a year ago. But you remember that a year ago the dollar was worth 39 pesos, which was as imprudent as could be," he remarked to newsmen.

Trade

Ayala feels that trade prospects are very good in 1984. He indicated that his trip to Japan, Israel and Thailand led him to believe that our country has a very good chance to sell its products there.

"It's a question of whether we are able to penetrate the markets. Our Foreign Ministry has to get its trade attaches and ambassadors to become veritable salesmen of our nation's products. Chile has a wide field of action," he added.

He said that SOFOFA has its doubts about the Andean Pact, inasmuch as according to his information, Venezuela and Colombia want to withdraw.

8743

CSO: 3348/195

FARM LOSSES DUE TO DROUGHT TOTAL \$10 MILLION

Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 5 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] The severe drought in three regions of the country has caused losses of more than \$10 million, it was learned yesterday. Farmers and ranchers have described the situation as a national disaster.

The heaviest damage has been to the beet and wheat crops and to meat and milk production, which is very important in the southern region of the country. Except for a few showers on the parched pastureland, it has not rained there in more than 2 months.

According to reports from the National Agriculture Association, the most critical zones are Malleco and Cautin, provinces that grow between 75 and 80 percent of Chile's wheat.

In Osorno, 955 kilometers south of Santiago, losses total \$5 million, while in Puerto Montt damage to more than one-fifth of the harvest amounts to another \$5 million of the U.S. currency.

The Agriculture and Livestock Service has ordered an emergency program to stimulate rainfall by bombarding clouds with silver iodide, which causes them to congeal, thus prompting rainfall.

Aid to Farmers

The Agriculture Ministry will submit a thorough assessment of the damage caused by the lack of rainfall in the country's seventh, ninth and tenth regions tomorrow, Friday, LA TERCERA was told. The ministry reported that the background information is presently being processed by the National Statistics Institute, and once this work has been completed, Agriculture Minister Jorge Prado will analyze the situation to determine how much money has to be allocated to lessen the severity of the problem, particularly as far as crops are concerned.

More than 100 ministry officials were involved in the research work, which covered more than 100 farms per region and all traditional crops. The efforts of these officials will enable the ministry to determine the crops and areas hardest hit by the drought and

to decide whether the National Agricultural Association was justified in asking Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa to declare a state of emergency.

Farmers in the ninth and tenth regions had asked the authorities to declare them a disaster area because of the extent of the drought.

8743

CSO: 3348/195

INCREASED EMPLOYMENT, EXPORTS SEEN AS 1984 PRIORITIES

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Jan 84 p 9

[Interview with the head of the National Planning Department, Jorge Ospina Sardi, by Lucy Diaz; date and place not specified]

[Text] The large-scale creation of jobs and a major offensive to revive exports will be the government's economic policy priorities in 1984, announced the head of the National Planning Department, Jorge Ospina Sardi.

According to official figures, the national economy is showing clear signs of a recovery, and the hope is that in 1984 the external sector will respond to the measures that President Betancur's administration has been taking from its outset.

In a conversation with EL SIGLO, Ospina said that the measures would inevitably boost exports. He went on to say that the protection given to industry, the added incentives for small business and the recovery in various sectors, such as housing, would help the government to achieve its goals.

He felt that one of current administration's major economic policy successes was having dampened inflation expectations. This has enabled it to genuinely stimulate the economy and, at the same time, to continue devaluing the peso above the inflation rate so that the country can regain its overseas competitiveness.

In summary, he felt that economic policy has been successful on some fronts and that some adjustments are required on others, adjustments that the government will gradually make. The government has been successful in curbing inflation, in correcting our balance of payments deficit and has made good progress in

halting the trend towards ever larger budget deficits, the Planning Department head commented.

Ospina Sardi stated that 80 percent of the foreign financing called for in the National Development Plan is assured. Furthermore, the prospects for securing domestic funds have improved measurably with last year's tax reform and the modification of the sales tax. "We believe that the groundwork has now been laid to obtain the domestic savings needed for the plan," the head of the National Planning Department reasserted.

Balanced Growth

With regard to the goal of balanced economic growth, as set forth in the Development Plan, he felt that it has largely been achieved by correcting the imbalance that had developed in public investment in recent years, through a sharp rise in funding for the ICA [Colombian Agricultural-Livestock Institute], HIMAT, INCORA [Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform] and programs such as DRI [Integrated Rural Development Program]-PAN and, of course, housing.

Foreign Investment

Concerning the current administration's measures to encourage foreign investment, he said that the results would not begin to be seen for a few more months. There has, however, already been a major rebound in foreign investment. During the first half of last year \$44 million was approved, and \$66 million in the second half, mainly in manufacturing.

When asked about the strengthening of regional sector planning to achieve a more consistent application of the administration's various policies, he announced that a coordinating committee for intersector planning had been established. It is composed of delegates from nationwide organizations in each of the sectors involved. Under the Development Plan these organizations will have to coordinate with the sectorial and regional planning groups that starting this year will be involved in drafting the national budget.

Economic Growth

[Question] How much did the national economy grow in 1983?

[Answer] There is still some uncertainty as to the performance of the real sector during the last 3 months, because the statistics are not yet in, in particular concerning the manufacturing sector. Growth was probably between one and two percent. Basically, there was a recovery during the second half, as we hit the low point of the recession during the first semester. The recovery is related to the push given to the construction sector and to sales over the final months of the year. The results will be seen in production in 1984.

[Question] ECLA has said that the GDP [gross domestic product] grew by 1.5 percent? What is your view?

[Answer] The exact figure will be known around April of this year, when DANE [National Administrative Department of Statistics] comes out with the final numbers. As I told you, the last quarter data have to be figured in. The important thing is that the economy has shown a recovery trend in recent months. As I said, the first half of 1983 was the worst point of the recession, and clear signs of the recovery began to appear in the second half.

[Question] How would you describe the inflation rate in 1983?

[Answer] One of the accomplishments of our economic policy has been the decline in inflation, inasmuch as the the initial goal was 20 percent, and we did much better than that. I think that reducing inflationary expectations within the framework of the National Development Plan has been one of our major successes. This has enabled us to really stimulate the economy and to make up for the country's exchange rate lag.

[Question] Will the goal of cutting the cost of living rise to 14 percent in 1984 be achieved?

[Answer] Well, that goal was set some time ago. We would have to reassess it in the light of new circumstances. The important thing is to keep inflationary expectations under control, as was the case in 1983.

[Question] Has the government's economic policy been successful?

[Answer] It has been successful on some fronts, while there is quite a bit left to do on others. I believe that it has obviously been successful in curbing inflation, in correcting the balance of payments deficit and has made good progress in halting the trend in the budget deficit. As far as jobs are concerned, and this is a government priority, we must not forget that they are related to the performance of the external sector and that employment is the last variable to react to economic recovery policies.

Priorities in 1984

[Question] What action will the government take in 1984?

[Answer] There are two fronts on which economic policy must focus in 1984. One is jobs and the other is exports. If we want to correct the external sector's imbalance in the medium run, we will have to again reactivate the export sector. We have already taken a few steps to this end, and we are in the process of taking others under the Foreign Commerce Framework Law. The country has already regained some of its comparative advantage, inasmuch as the peso was devalued much more than the inflation rate in 1983, and we are now going to put together an entire system of exports incentives under the Foreign Commerce Framework Law. I think that this front is going to be the top priority this year, so that exports expand like they did in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The country must again become a major exporter.

Moreover, the policy of promoting exports is going to further the other offensive that the country has to launch: the offensive to combat unemployment with our export policy, with our policy of government purchases, with our battle against smuggling and, in general, with our policy of protecting domestic industry. Through our policy of promoting medium and small business, our housing policy and public works projects in violence-plagued areas, we can wage this head-on battle against unemployment in 1984 and cut the jobless rate to a minimum tolerable level.

[Question] What are the most important projects this year?

[Answer] There is the Urrea project, the Cerrejon project, the Medellin subway, the naval base on Malaga Bay on the Pacific coast, the Villavicencio-Puerto Carreno highway, the La Miel hydroelectric plant and Ciudad Bolivar in Bogota.

Then there is the health care program to be financed through the World Bank. There are also a series of projects in the agricultural and livestock sector. Plania begins this year; this involves the reclamation of several irrigation districts, and construction is going to begin in others. There is the entire no down-payment housing program, which will have the same support as before. We also have the outreach education program. In short, there is a long list of projects that we have been studying and seeking funding for and that are now beginning to take shape.

[Question] How is the strengthening of regional and sectorial planning coming along?

[Answer] This has been a concern of the administration since its outset. A short while ago we went to Ibagu  for a meeting with the departmental planning heads that was attended by the coordinators

of the sectorial planning committees. We have set up sectorial committees consisting of the nationwide entities in each of the various sectors, and they, in turn, have to coordinate efforts with the departmental planning offices. Our primary goal is for the regional planning level to take a very active role in drafting the 1985 budget. Thus, the budget process for 1985 is going to have this regional dimension for the first time in our country, and it will identify a series of investment programs that will be specifically assigned to the departmental planning offices.

In addition, we are going to discuss with the departmental planning offices the regional distribution of the sectorial funds allocated by the national government. I think that this is the first step: to involve regional planning in the drafting of national budgets. If we achieve this, we will have made good progress towards having a more coordinated and consistent planning system for the country.

The municipal treasuries have already been strengthened through the tax reform. The real estate tax, the industrial and business tax and other minor taxes were restructured, and we have the new sales tax. Part of the proceeds from the sales tax are going to finance the municipalities, which will further bolster their treasuries. Our aim is an administrative decentralization to strengthen the country.

Investment and Financing

[Question] What have been the results of the policy of encouraging foreign investment?

[Answer] We did not begin trying out these measures until the second half of the year, and most of them are now contained in resolutions, CONPES [National Council for Social and Economic Policy] rulings, decrees, etc. We will see more results in 1984, but especially in 1985 and 1986. Such measures do not begin having an impact until the medium term, because they involve decisions by foreign investors, which take time and require intensive promotion efforts in our country, efforts that are just beginning. So we feel that the effects of these measures will not be felt until 1985. In 1984 we will aggressively promote those areas in which we want foreign investment. We are going to hold meetings with foreign investors from all over the world. Right now we have plans with the United Nations to stage a meeting with foreign investors in July at which we will present to them the investment programs that we would like to see started up. We are also going to explain our foreign investment policy at various forums of investors both here and overseas. I think that now that we have taken the policy measures, we need to make these promotion efforts to attract the foreign capital into the sectors that we want it to go. Our foreign investment policy is a selective, not an indiscriminate policy. We have pinpointed several sectors in which we need such investment, and we are going to focus our efforts at promotion in those sectors. During the first half of the year \$44 million in foreign

investment was approved, and during the second half there was an upswing to \$66 million. The upswing was particularly significant in the manufacturing sector. During the first half, \$25 million was approved for manufacturing, and in the second the figure hit \$62 million. In other words, we have begun to see a recovery in recent months, but as I said, the effects are going to be more obvious in 1984 and especially in 1985 and 1986.

[Question] Are we achieving "balanced economic development"?

[Answer] The Plan said that it was important for the State to again play a role in farming. I think that this has largely been accomplished, thus correcting an imbalance that had been in evidence in investment programs in recent years. The 1983 and 1984 national budgets contain considerably more funding for the ICA, HIMAT, INCORA and programs such as DRI-PAN.

[Question] Is financing for the National Development Plan now assured?

[Answer] There are two components, external and internal financing. The former is 80 percent assured. Where there have been delays has been in the projects financed through commercial banks. The market is a very difficult one in this area. As long as the situation in Latin America does not normalize, it is going to be very hard for Colombia to secure those loans.

The prospects for financing with domestic funds have improved, thanks to last year's tax reform and the recent change in the sales tax. We believe that the groundwork has been laid to obtain the domestic savings that the Plan requires.

8743

CSO: 3348/196

TRADE ACCORD WITH NETHERLANDS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 6 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] Havana (AIN)--The State Committee for Economic Cooperation (CECE) and the Economic Affairs Ministry of the Kingdom of the Netherlands have agreed to set up a joint governmental commission for economic and technical cooperation.

G.B. de Grooth, the director general of foreign economic relations of the Dutch Economic Affairs Ministry, has arrived in our country, along with four other officials, for the first meeting in connection with this decision.

The Cuban delegation is headed by Jose Fernandez de Cossio, the vice president of the CECE, and includes representatives from the ministries of foreign trade and foreign relations, the Banco Nacional de Cuba and other CECE officials.

A large delegation of representatives of private Dutch firms arrived here yesterday and will be visiting until Monday the 12th to help expand trade and economic ties, which is the purpose of the newly created commission.

The mission was organized by the Dutch Foreign Trade Office of the Economic Affairs Ministry and the Institute for Latin America of the Dutch Center for the Promotion of Foreign Trade, with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Cuba.

The group consists of representatives of some 30 private Dutch industrial and commercial firms and is headed by P.J. Van Driel, the president of the Institute for Latin America of the Dutch Center for the Promotion of Foreign Trade.

Both parties are also fundamentally interested in bolstering their already good economic ties and in creating long-term cooperation prospects; this is why a permanent structure for consultation between the two governments has been set up.

STUDY GUIDE ON GRENADA, CASTRO'S SPEECH

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 24 Nov 83 pp 52-53

[Text] Objectives

When they have concluded their study of the speech delivered by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz on 14 November 1983 at the mourning ceremony bidding farewell to the heroes who fell in Grenada, personnel must be prepared to:

--Explain the importance and significance of the internationalist mission that Cuba was engaged in on Grenada.

--Explain the Cuban foreign policy principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other States.

--Expose the aggressive, domineering and deceitful policy of Yankee imperialism on Grenada.

--Explain why the events on Grenada must make us more aware of the real dangers that threaten the world and of the need to strengthen our country's defense capabilities.

Study Topics

I. Cuba's internationalist aid to Grenada is based on the principle of nonintervention in its domestic affairs.

II. The events on Grenada and the need to strengthen our country's defense capabilities.

Introduction

The founders of Marxist-Leninist doctrine demonstrated with absolute clarity the aggressive nature of imperialism and also argued that defeating this international force required the strongest unity of the world proletariat. "One must not think only of one's nation," stated Lenin; "instead, the interests of all nations must be placed above it." This thought is an indissoluble part of the ideology and of the finest revolutionary traditions of our people.

The exceptional importance that revolutionary Cubans attach to this principle is reflected in the party's platform: "Proletarian internationalism is the essence and the foundation of the foreign policy of the Cuban Communist Party."

I. Cuba's Internationalist Aid to Grenada Is Based on the Principle of Nonintervention in Its Domestic Affairs

Study of this topic should begin with a description of the aggressive policy of the United States of America and of its treacherous lightning attack on the tiny island of Grenada (Use graphics appearing in Issue 44 (pp 16-17) of VERDE OLIVO).

The modest aid that Cuba gave to Grenada was of significant material importance and was admired by many small Caribbean nations. "We apply to Grenada the same principle that we follow with all revolutionary countries and movements," Fidel said, "absolute respect for its policies, its viewpoints and its decisions, and expressing our views on an issue only if we are asked to."

In Maurice Bishop the people of Grenada had a true revolutionary leader: conscientious, honest, self-critical, intelligent and realistic, a man who came rigorously to terms with the specific conditions and the potential of his country. Under his leadership Grenada was moving forward in all aspects of economic, political and social life and had become a symbol of independence and progress in the Caribbean.

Under those circumstances it was to be expected that imperialism would despise Grenada, hate Bishop and ready plans to thwart the revolutionary process. "Nevertheless, it was the Grenadan revolutionaries themselves who triggered the events." Referring to this point, the commander in chief noted: "In our judgment, Coard's group objectively destroyed the revolution and opened the door to imperialist aggression. Whatever their intentions might have been, the brutal assassination of Bishop and of his most loyal comrades and followers can never be justified either in that or any other revolution."

Furthermore, Yankee imperialism has portrayed Coard's followers as hard-line communists and loyal allies of Cuba. The history of the revolutionary movement demonstrates, however, that there is often much common ground between imperialism and those who take apparently extreme leftist positions. Fidel summarized what happened as follows: "Either the CIA did it, or, if not, it could not have been done better."

The situation that was created on Grenada was complex and difficult for our country, because it was practically impossible to defend the Grenada Government against the imperialist aggression. However, withdrawal under those circumstances was dishonorable and could have encouraged aggression not only against Grenada but also against Cuba or some other country.

The person giving the presentation should then reveal the lies that Reagan and his spokesmen have spread about the foul, treacherous aggression. A graphic is recommended to illustrate the analysis.

In a genuinely dangerous development for all of the peoples of the world, the current Yankee administration, appealing dishonestly to the finest moral values of the American people, managed to manipulate, disinform and deceive the majority of the country's citizens, who supported the monstrous crime that their government committed.

A parallel should be drawn between the Grenada incident and the events that touched off the Second World War.

II. The Events on Grenada and the Need to Strengthen Our Country's Defense Capabilities

The invasion of Grenada points up the grave dangers menacing the world, dangers heightened by current scientific and technological strides and the aggressive, domineering and arrogant attitude of the current U.S. administration and of Reagan in particular. Specific examples should be cited to reaffirm this.

In light of this the only alternative is "to turn our country into a bastion that the United States cannot conquer, because it is not technology that makes an army powerful; it is the justice of the cause that its weapons are defending and, above all, the morale of its combatants."

A series of measures have been taken to accomplish this goal; some of the main ones are:

- The creation of the MTT's [Territorial Troops Militias]
- Raising the combat capability and readiness of the FAR, with the valuable aid of the USSR
- Improving the preparedness of Civil Defense
- Training more than 50,000 cadres for various leadership-level posts
- Terrain preparation in peacetime

The fundamental lessons of "Bastion-83" (graphic No 1) should be analyzed.

An explanation of these points should be closely linked with the work done in the unit.

The person giving the presentation should then explain the points made in Graphic No 2.

Conclusions

--The events on Grenada confirm that imperialism has not lost its aggressive essence and is capable of launching a lightning strike anywhere and anytime.

--We must be able to respond to a surprise attack and to withstand its massive strikes; to this end, we must prepare ourselves materially, morally, politically and psychologically.

--It has been demonstrated that we can do battle with their best troops and that we do not fear them.

Topics for Officers and Warrant Officers

1. Proletarian internationalism: the essence and foundation of the Cuban Communist Party's foreign policy. Explain.
2. Analyze the situation that developed in Grenada and that made the U.S. intervention possible.
3. Describe the Yankee policy in connection with the events on Grenada.
4. In his 15 November 1983 speech the FAR minister talked about some of the lessons of the Grenada affair. Analyze them.
5. Explain the measures that have been taken to make our country a bastion that the United States cannot conquer.

Topics for Sergeants, Privates and Seamen

1. What is the importance of the internationalist aid that Cuba gave Grenada?
2. Why did our commander in chief state: "Cowards [hienas] emerged from the revolutionary ranks themselves?"
3. Why has U.S. policy in connection with the Grenada affair been marked by lies?
4. Mention some of the measures that have been taken to make our country a bastion that the Yankees cannot conquer.
5. Analyze the following statement by our commander in chief: "Our country might be wiped off the face of the earth, but it will never be conquered and subdued."

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3. Raul Castro Ruz, speech at the funeral in homage to the Grenada combatants whose bodies arrived in Holguin alongside those of the Cuban internationalist combatants, 15 November 1983, VERDE OLIVO, No 47, 1983.

8743

CSO: 3248/298

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARGENTINA ANALYZED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 48, 2 Dec 83 pp 72-73

[Article by BOHEMIA special correspondent Pedro Rioseco: "Moderate Optimism"]

[Text] After spending almost a month in this South American country and talking with hundreds of people from various social strata, this commentator can sum up his impressions with the words moderate optimism.

The measures announced by the nation's future president, Raul Alfonsin, and the statements by his brand-new cabinet are, in fact, consistent with the Radical Party's campaign platform, and there seems to be strong unity around the man who won seven million votes.

"The president's men," as they are called in the Buenos Aires press, are just that and, therefore, they think the same way and speak the same language. And in Argentina today this is very important.

No one thinks, of course, that the Radical government will lead this enormous country of 28 million towards a process of revolutionary change in its social structures. This is a democratic, nationalistic government with a broad base that includes a class-oriented element ranging from major labor groups, young people and women to the middle class and the petty bourgeoisie.

This is precisely the reason for my moderate optimism. Developments over the next 3 months will chart the future course of the Argentine government. If Alfonsin implements major economic measures as firmly as he has announced to halt the sharp drop in the living standards of the lowest-income segments, if he promotes the recovery of an industry that was destroyed with criminal methodicalness over the past 7 years in pursuit of the monetarist policy dictated from Washington, and if the top echelon of the military is cut down to the size he has talked about to ward off the danger of another military coup in 3 or 4 years (as is traditional in South American political history), then we will see what happens and

which way the man in the Casa Rosada will tug on the reins of power when the representatives of the domestic oligarchy, the transnational corporations and the covert agents of international financial institutions start applying the pressure.

We cannot forget for even a moment that two serious problems will keep Argentina under heavy pressure both at home and abroad. The first is external: the crushing foreign debt that has inexplicably reached the astronomical figure of \$43 billion (this is much more than even the military could have robbed over these 7 years) in spite of the heavy tax imposed to cover the cost of the war in the South Atlantic.

Interest and principal payments on the debt next year are so huge that not even the income from all of the country's exports that year, without any imports at all, could cover them. The noose has been drawn fairly tight. It is now up to European Social Democracy to make good its proclamations of solidarity with the newly elected Radical leader and to give him the breathing room he needs in the form of a partial rescheduling of the debt on comfortable terms. To a great extent the Social Democrats have to, not only because of their difficult position vis-a-vis public opinion back home but also and above all because Argentina simply does not have the money. And if it were to declare itself in default, it would drag Brazil and Mexico with it, plunging the world financial system into an insurmountable crisis.

Furthermore, the systematic destruction of Argentine industry and of its main industrial exports and the attempt to make it a farm products exporter were totally contrived. The development achieved in past decades has created an infrastructure that is latent and dislocated but still there. It will not be difficult to create jobs and get the country producing exports again. The hard part will be entering new markets and competing with the transnational corporations. Argentina's new leaders have therefore made the right move in supporting the principles set forth in the economic declaration of the Seventh Summit Conference of Nonaligned Countries (New Delhi, March 1983). What they boil down to is promoting trade between underdeveloped countries (so-called South-South trade) so that their economies complement each other and so that they can revive their potential in the face of the current crisis.

Argentina's leaders have intuitively reached the same conclusions as the rest of the developing world and are looking more towards Latin America; they will have to take strong stands in this regard in the face of U.S. pressure or else resign themselves to scuttling their own program for overcoming the country's current predicament.

The other problem is the burning domestic policy issue of missing persons.

The long night of terror is over. Argentines are laughing, celebrating life under democracy and placing their hopes in the future...but they have not forgotten.

When the new judicial system begins investigating and putting murderers and torturers (in the military or not) on trial and when the first death sentences, as established in the Argentine penal code, are enforced (if it comes to that), then, as residents of Buenos Aires say, watch out!

Every family has a father, a son, a relative or a friend among the 30,000 who disappeared. Some things are beginning to come to light. Some of the incredible horror stories are beginning to surface.

But the culprits are hundreds, if not thousands of men who were involved in the repression, some of whom are still in charge of major military commands and control well-armed paramilitary forces that know that their heads are on the line.

The civilian human rights movement in Argentina is led by the eight organizations that have struggled heroically all these years to save the lives of the missing persons who might still be in concentration camps in remote corners of the country or in large prisons serving sentences without ever having been put on trial or without their names appearing on any of the lists of political prisoners.

This movement is so strong that it was able to jolt the military dictatorship and hasten its fall. Its political influence cannot be underestimated, and President Alfonsin has promised to lend full support to the courts so that the people who are to blame for this fascist genocide are exemplarily punished and so that the missing persons who might still be alive can return home.

The other major party, Peronism, is trying to prepare itself for its role in the opposition, but members have been unable to agree either on who should lead the party or what program they should pursue. On the contrary, there has been a clear-cut trend towards confrontations between the Peronist rank-and-file and the top leaders, and political has-beens who refuse to disappear, such as Lorenzo Miguel and Herminio Iglesias, continue to surface amid the troubled Peronist waters. In the meantime, opportunists seeking to capitalize on the party's defeat at the polls to launch their own candidacies are emerging.

The foundations of Peronism need to be revamped, but not in the style of "Isabelita" or a number of discredited figures who are committed to union gangs and not through tacit agreements with the military.

There are new forces that want to preserve the movement and again take up its traditional banners, which paradoxically were the ones that Radicalism unfurled during its campaign. However, the movement lacks leaders with grassroots support who can conduct a constructive opposition to Alfonsin's government and pressure it to satisfy the grievances that he talked about in his campaign and that are not at odds with the workers' interests.

We can thus gather that the coming months will be decisive not only for the Radical government but for Peronism as well. Its choice is this: to become a revolutionary movement that nudges the government forward or to cease to exist as a party of the masses because of factionalism and internal strife.

Few times in its history has Argentina found itself at such a difficult and, at the same time, such a hopeful juncture. Now is the time to join forces to make headway and to bolster the people's participation in politics.

The traditional Peronist slogan of "liberation and dependence" changed hands during the election campaign, but it still applies and, thus, can still be shared. Whoever backs down at this point will be the loser. And if there is one thing about which all Argentines are certain, from cafeteria help to well-dressed bank employees and from the thousands of taxicab drivers who fancy themselves political experts to the unemployed "shirtless" workers in the slums, it is that the country has already hit bottom. Things can not get worse, and more than good intentions and fine-sounding speeches are needed to set them straight.

8743

CSO: 3248/317

GREATER AUTONOMY PLANNED FOR SOME AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 7 Dec 83 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] One of the problems that have been most intensively broached at profitability aktivs has been the excessive guidance of the technical-economic plans of enterprises. The debate has been especially heated in the farm production sphere.

During his concluding remarks at the provincial aktiv for farm production profitability in the Havana areas, Tomas Suarez, the vice minister of agriculture for the economy, disclosed yesterday that the appropriate agencies are revamping the indicators for the 1984 plans to encourage greater management autonomy.

Suarez told the more than 100 workers, technicians and leaders at the meeting, who were representing enterprises in the provinces of Havana and the City of Havana, that his ministry is also working on plans that provide for better coordination between tasks and allotted resources, because workers have also complained at the aktivs that there is often a discrepancy between the goals set for a specific stage and the resources to achieve them.

Suarez said that next year the enterprises would also have greater authority to make nonnominal investments, the ones that an enterprise decides on in accordance with its needs. Agricultural enterprises did not have this sort of flexibility, and their leeway was almost nonexistent in this regard.

Agricultural Equipment Use Plan for 1984

One of the goals set forth at the party's Second Congress was a more efficient use of farm machinery.

Several persons gave speeches on this topic, highlighting the lack of monitoring and of rigorous standards in the use of farm machinery.

In 1984 each enterprise will have a farm machinery use plan, which will decisively promote its rational, economical operation. As a

result of this plan, an enterprise's use of its equipment will be an additional factor in economic analyses. Until now this could not be gauged in the reports on enterprise management because the appropriate mechanisms did not exist.

Physical indicators, but not value indicators, were quantified in gauging the performance of machinery. As of next year, under the use plan, enterprises will be able to determine value. This will help to discourage the use of tractors as means of transportation for activities not related to the production quota. The lack of such monitoring has been a common topic at the aktivs.

In addition to these objective factors, the aktiv also addressed the lack of rigorous standards in the use of equipment and the wasteful use of water in irrigation systems. Sometimes the irrigation is excessive, and other times it is insufficient, the workers said.

Farm Profitability Hinges on Yield

An agricultural enterprise's efficiency depends above all on crop area yield. An enterprise cannot be profitable unless it properly utilizes technology to grow more on a given crop area. The land, an enterprise's main source of income, must yield as large a crop as possible, through proper soil preparation, optimum planting and workers who can use the equipment properly to achieve the desired results.

All of these points were made in the speeches by the Havana workers. The site of the aktiv was the agriculture delegation in Menocal, Havana. Also on the speakers platform were Vidal Anaya and Victor Fernandez, members of the party's Provincial Bureau in Havana, and Elpidio Lara, the agriculture delegate in the Havana areas.

The report, which contains the points made at the aktivs held between 20 October and 10 November, notes that there has been progress in per peso costs, which hit just 99 cents; the goal was 102.

The document points out that the fundamental mission of the agricultural enterprise in this territory is to supply farm produce, milk and meat to the 2.5 million persons living in the Havana provinces.

These provinces are a major producer of tubers and vegetables (more than 30 percent of nationwide output), as well as of milk (35 percent of domestic production).

The production of these items involves certain "peak" moments when manpower has to be brought in from other sectors, including students at the Basic Secondary Schools in the Countryside and Preuniversity Institutes in the Countryside.

This situation pushes up costs, because these workers have to be lodged and fed and students have to be brought back and forth.

All of this was analyzed at the aktiv with one goal in mind: to minimize the outlays for which the workers themselves are responsible, by making the best possible use of the workday, by following regulations and by getting the most out of the fields.

Luis Simeon, the second secretary of the National Trade Union of Agricultural and Forestry Workers, stated that although gains had been made in linking workers to local areas, quality work has not been achieved in some cases and wages not consistent with output are being paid out.

8743

CSO: 3248/317

READER QUESTIONS CLOSING OF MOVIE THEATERS IN HAVANA

Havana EL CAIMAN BARBUDO in Spanish Dec 83 pp 22-23

[Text] EL CAIMAN BARBUDO is publishing the text of a letter that Agustin Cabello sent to the editor and the "reply" offered by Luis Vidal Febles.

[Reader's letter] Almost since the establishment of the People's Government organs, delegates to stock-taking assemblies have been talking about the need to reopen the Ritz Theater on Fabrica and Rodriguez, which was closed a few years ago, apparently because of structural problems. Although it had been previously reported that the theater was going to be repaired in 1984, at the last assembly a few days ago our delegate conveyed the decision of the Film Exhibition Enterprise not to repair this theater. According to the information furnished by our delegate, the main argument cited is the low attendance at other theaters in the 10 de Octubre municipality, such as Mara and Victoria, in addition to other material considerations. It seems incredible that the attendance rate is that low in the country's most populous municipality (according to the census), in which the population has increased and the number of available theaters has declined (the Tosca and the former Norma theater are closed, in addition to the Ritz). This can be due only to unappealing and/or out-of-date programming and, possibly, to the cost of tickets.

In a country like ours, in which the cultural level of the populace is constantly rising and in which there is a tradition of frequent movie theater attendance, we would expect that the situation would be different from what the enterprise in question claims it is.

Furthermore, it is inappropriate to apply strictly economic criteria to cultural and recreational activities. Otherwise, our symphonic orchestra would have disappeared years ago. Lastly, I would like to point out that a movie theater can and should be utilized for other political and cultural activities that are often difficult to stage because of a lack of suitable sites. This is why most of them are concentrated in the Plaza and Downtown Havana municipalities, which are the best suited for this purpose.

Hoping that EL CAIMAN consents to print this letter, I remain

Revolutionarily yours,
Agustin Cabello
Velazquez 464, Apt 2e
Reforma and Guasabacoa
Luyano, Downtown Havana

[reply] Comrade Agustin Cabello
Velazquez 464, Apt 2
Between Reforma and Guasabacoa
Luyano

Comrade:

The following is our reply to the letter that you sent to the editor of EL CAIMAN BARBUDO and that was forwarded to our enterprise.

We would like to clarify for you that our general policy concerning movie theaters that have been closed down is to return them to service as such to provide continuing entertainment for the people. Now then, we are all familiar with the country's economic situation, which has prompted adjustments in every area of the national budget, including the funding to rebuild and restore movie theaters no longer in use.

Therefore, although we have always stated that we would like to reopen the Ritz Theater, as well as many others that are presently closed, we must inform you that at the moment it is impossible to begin rebuilding this theater, for the reasons set forth above and because the priority in reopening theaters depends on their importance within the communities in which they are located.

The construction enterprise of the People's Government and the Culture Ministry have reached their limit in the number of projects they can undertake, inasmuch as our units have been in use for many years without systematic maintenance and currently suffer from serious structural problems, which have led to the closing of some. Also, we do not have another municipal, provincial or national construction enterprise to take charge of movie theater rebuilding projects.

For your information, the trend in recent years has been towards greater attendance at premiere movie theaters instead of neighborhood theaters. The utilization index of the theater in question should, therefore, come as no surprise.

We are all aware that cinematography is in the midst of a grave crisis, inasmuch as the capitalist countries are producing mostly pornographic films or films of extreme violence, and this reduces the number of movies that we can acquire from that area.

We should remember that in recent years the people have been offered a wide range of recreational choices that did not previously exist or were not widely available, and these opportunities militate against the public's attendance at motion pictures. Television and video cassettes are other factors. All of these choices work against attendance at neighborhood theaters and even premiere theaters.

It is undeniable that the cultural level of our people has risen considerably thanks to the intensive efforts that the Culture Ministry has exerted to develop the various manifestations of culture and to interest our people in them. Due to this very development, however, an increasing number of persons are attending art exhibitions, plays, folkloric dances, the ballet, etc, and this leads to lower attendance at movie theaters. In the specific district in which the Ritz Theater is located, a one percent utilization of installed capacity is one of the lowest rates, inasmuch as the Dora Theater shows three percent, the Atlas five, the Fenix three and the Luyano three. We would also inform you that the rates at the recently built Mara and Victoria theaters are 13 and 31.9 percent, respectively. As you can see, the use ratio at these theaters is very low.

Our enterprise is part of the economic accountability system and, therefore, has to apply economic criteria to insure profitability, if possible. There are, of course, other cultural activities that operate on the basis of budgetary funding, inasmuch as they can be offered only if expenditures are not skimmed on and only if they are not subject to economic conditions that would compromise their proper presentation.

In conclusion, we would clarify for you that the comprehensive program for the 10 basic institutions that a municipality must have discusses the use of movie theaters as sites for other cultural activities. Now then, many of our theaters do not have stages, and in others the stages are not suitable for such activities, because most of the former owners and managers built them just to make money and used all available space for seating. Only a few movie theaters that were built for the dual purpose of showing films and presenting plays have stages suitable for cultural activities, and as you correctly pointed out, they are located in the municipalities of Plaza de la Revolucion and Downtown Havana. Hoping that these clarifications have dispelled your doubts, I remain

Fraternally yours,
Luis Vidal Febles
Director
Film Exhibition Enterprise
City of Havana

8743
CSO: 3248/320

VIDEO CASSETTES CALLED IDEOLOGICAL THREAT

Havana EL CAIMAN BARBUDO in Spanish Dec 83 pp 28-29

[Article by Lourdes Pasalodos: "Video Poison"]

[Text] Yes, the turn of the century is nearing. The year 2000 is around the corner. World peace continues to walk a dangerous tightrope. Life goes on at a dizzying pace. The scientific and technological revolution further widens the gap between the developed countries and the lands that comprise a broad, diverse and complex spectrum of poverty.

Mankind has seen a great deal, enough so that we do not react negatively to scientific and technological progress, as in the days of the steam engine.

Social contradictions have historically prompted confrontations in the realm of ideas, a realm that has often been insufficient to resolve them. This is why today we can draw up a long list of battles, including the two world wars.

We can say that today's war is a silent one in which many weapons are being utilized. On the one hand, the imperialists are deploying an incredible range of devices to blur the view of and even blind nations, while the socialist countries are doing exactly the opposite and are prepared to defend peace at whatever price must be paid.

For now, nations must open their eyes, because as a Soviet poet said, when vigilance is asleep, war awakes.

Ideological poison comes in a wide range of containers. It stands to reason, therefore, that the latest developments of the scientific and technological revolution are being used to achieve their diversionist goals under the guise of "culture."

Art is thus debased because its supposed immunity is taken advantage of to penetrate nations and administer the poison.

One of the latest developments in modern technology is the videocassette deck. Audiovisual information has been revolutionized in less than a

decade by this new piece of equipment, which can be produced and sold on a mass scale.

The mass dissemination of audiovisual information has, in fact, radically altered the former pattern of its use. Movies and television are being displaced by a portable home machine that can record whatever one wishes to view.

Movie theater attendance has declined sharply in recent years throughout the world, and according to an AFP wire there are 32 million privately owned videocassette recorders today.

To the above we should add that a new type of thief has emerged in the United States. Breaking into laboratories and movie houses and making off with films that have not yet premiered, these thieves reproduce and sell them, on the black market of course.

With what subjects does capitalist cinematography currently deal? Most of the films made today are pornographic, horror and violence films.

So what do people put on their videocassette decks when family members or friends get together? Why, pornographic, horror and extremely violent films, of course! These films are produced with every intention of providing the worst sort of entertainment, without any constructive content for people, without any message to enrich their lives.

When placed in service to capital, the new technology yields sizable profits. And income is not the only result; people are being entertained, lulled to sleep, slowly but surely being poisoned.

Thus, a piece of equipment that can and is being used for noble purposes has become a conveyer of negative messages, a tool of ideological penetration and distortion.

This is no more and no less than a "cultural" information network operating outside of national policies.

This how it works. A videocassette deck can be purchased to watch musicals and movies to which everyone does not have access. Twenty or so persons can gather around to watch, and not only will they take in the "show," but they will also talk to others about what they saw, while those who were unable to be there are still going to pass on what they were told. A need thus arises: to own a videocassette recorder or at least to regularly attend the private showings.

As we know, in the socialist countries the agencies in charge of looking after the people's cultural development and the cultural information that they receive strive to offer them messages that will contribute to their enrichment as human beings. In the field

of cinematography, we must and we do weed out all films whose content has nothing to do with our ideas. We thus reject pornography and films with a high level of violence or horror, as well as those that attack our ideological stands.

Nevertheless, this cultural policy, like others, is a target of attack by the capitalist market, which pushes a certain type of music, a certain language and a given set of values of standards of conduct, makes a showy display of dazzling technical resources and offers a wide range of products, from true artists to those who have nothing to do with creativity.

Countries like Bulgaria are not immune to the attacks of the video-poison. The party and the government there studied the situation conscientiously as ideological aggression and took a series of political and administrative measures to prevent enemy penetration as much as they could. Customs legislation regulates the importation of videocassettes into Bulgaria on the basis of their message content. Those that are at variance with cultural policy are not allowed in. There are no restrictions on the importation of video recorders and players or blank cassettes.

Private individuals have been prohibited from staging group showings of films, and Bulgarian cinematography has been empowered as a cultural, ideological and administrative monitoring center for the social use of video equipment. In addition, a network of movie clubs has been organized throughout the country; there are currently 25 installations and the number should rise to 80 by 1985. These clubs show a wide variety of musicals, movies and documentaries produced both domestically and in the other socialist countries, and they bring together mostly persons interested in movie criticism.

Bulgaria is not the only nation in the socialist camp that is attempting to keep the imperialists at bay. Hungary has also taken some very strong steps, and the Soviet Union has gone on the offensive too. Cuba, which lies much closer to the United States and is also more influenced by its "culture" because of its many years of penetration, is not immune to this problem either.

It is truly regrettable that a useful and practical machine like the videocassette deck is not yielding better fruit. It is our primary duty to prevent imperialism from reaping a rich harvest.

8743

CSO: 3248/320

BRIEFS

SCIENTIFIC, ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH PERU--Lima, 11 Nov (ANDINA)--At the close of its third session the Peruvian-Cuban Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation emphasized how important it is for developing countries to engage in technical cooperation. Representing Peru and Cuba, respectively, ambassadors Julio Ego-Aguirre, the secretary general of foreign relations and a deputy minister, and Jose Fernandez de Cossio, a vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, signed a memorandum with the agreements adopted at the meeting. They pointed out that the approved projects would have an impact on priority areas for the economic progress of the two countries and they reaffirmed that in the current economic situation cooperation programs must be realistic and pragmatic. The delegations agreed to exchange information, technical cooperation and training in various sectors such as farming, livestock raising, fishing, mining, housing construction, sports, health care and industry. [Excerpts] [Havana GRANMA in Spanish 13 Nov 83 p 5] 8743

CSO: 3248/298

U.S. MEDIA, LIBERALS ACCUSED OF MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Dec 83 p 38

[Text] Qualified spokesmen have reported that, during recent months, an intensive campaign to discredit the people, authorities and Armed Forces of El Salvador has heightened to the maximum extent in the United States.

The source claimed that this campaign is sponsored and supported by United States leftist liberal groups overtly backing the clandestine organizations which are operating in El Salvador, and that one of the goals being sought is to demoralize the Armed Forces, describing them as incompetent, so that they will lose courage, dividing the Army commands and, in particular, creating confusion among the American public so that the latter will influence the thinking of their rulers and the rulers in turn will preclude any kind of economic and military aid to the Salvadoran authorities.

They maintain that, in this attempt to misrepresent the Salvadoran situation, once again, no efforts of any kind are spared, including defamation and other falsehoods whereby they claim that the Armed Forces and the "Death Squads" are one and the same. This brazen accusation, they noted, has the cooperation of the U.S. mass advertising media which never miss an opportunity to describe our country negatively.

Finally, they declared, despite what is thought and said by spokesmen for international communism residing in the United States, freedom and democracy will continue to reign in the national territory, provided the majority of Salvadorans remain united and convinced of what they must do to prevent Marxism-Leninism from taking over our country.

2909

CSO: 3248/327

PCN LEADER STATES POSITION ON REFORMS, GUERRILLAS

San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 23 Dec 83 pp 3, 27, 29

[Interview with PCN Deputy Hugo Carrillo by V.M.U.; date and place not specified]

[Text] "The most important thing for the country at present is to give the party's position, on the policy level, concerning the economic area. The most clearcut definition is that we are attempting to reinforce private enterprise, a private enterprise that is progressing, based upon the circumstances that our country is experiencing and upon the future."

This statement was made by the deputy from the National Conciliation Party. [PCN] and board member of the Constituent Assembly, Hugo Carrillo, in a special interview granted to EL DIARIO DE HOY.

He went on to say: "In this connection, in the discussion of the Political Constitution that will go into effect within the next few days, we have been backing private enterprise in all areas that would benefit the country.

"Hence, our political focus in the economic area is one of support for private enterprise as a mainstay of the system under which we in El Salvador are living."

In the Labor Area

[Question] What position does PCN have in the labor realm?

[Answer] Our policy position in the labor area is that we want to establish a true, harmonious balance between the forces which produce the labor system; in other words, a harmonious relationship between capital and labor, seeking to avoid social conflicts that damage the country.

He said: "In this respect, our position is quite clear. On the other hand, we are not unaware of the great unemployment that exists in El Salvador owing to the crisis that we are undergoing and the military conflict that we are experiencing. Therefore, if we come to power, it will be our concern to create intensively many sources of employment, so as to make up for the shortage that we have at present, and to attempt to surmount the unemployment that is threatening the economy in our country."

Concerning Reforms

[Question] What can you tell us about the reforms carried out in the country?

[Answer] Our theory as a political party is that we back the decision to make the reforms, but we have always expressed our opposition to the methods used; that is, against the dispossession and abuses and against the political manipulation of the reforms.

We think that they were very necessary measures; they perhaps should have been adopted some years ago, but better late than never. We believe that, insofar as agrarian reform is concerned, economic recovery must be sought, because there have been good results socially and politically, but the desired results have not yet occurred economically.

Hence, my party will make an effort to bring about favorable economic results which have not occurred to date.

As for bank reform, we are exploring the possibility of allowing private banks to exist again, so as to compete with the state banks. This will be one of the proposals that we shall make in our government program.

And with regard to foreign trade, we shall revise the marketing mechanisms to see if some adjustments can be made in this area.

Agrarian Reform

[Question] How does PCN view agrarian reform?

[Answer] As I said before, we are following the first phase, and also Article 104, which became 105 of the Constitution, one of the most disputed and most controversial articles, as everyone knows, was approved, setting limits on land holding at 245 hectares, with the difference that this second phase, will enable those concerned to freely choose their land. They will not be subjected to dispossession or invasion of land; they will have fair treatment in the payment for their property; they will be allowed to have an orderly process; and there will not be the abuses that occurred during the first phase.

We deem it feasible to allow this social expectation in the second phase, because it is unfeasible, from a social standpoint, to close all the doors for progress in this area. Nevertheless, we have not overlooked the economic aspect in the second phase; and hence we are affording the opportunity to the owners of breaking up the portion that they want to keep and, in addition, offering a fair procedure in paying for the land.

National Banks

[Question] Do you think that the nationalization of the banks has benefited the country?

[Answer] The nationalization of the banks was a reform cooperating with the agrarian reform, but it has definitely lost their competitive nature; because with the banks in the hands of the state, understandably there is no one to compete in rendering services or in making better progress in the financial situation.

As I said previously, we think that the bank reform should undergo revision, and we shall be trying to seek an alternative, so that private banks may exist in the future, so that there will be competition both in the private banks and in those of the government.

Regarding the Guerrillas

[Question] The most critical issue is that of the guerrillas. What is your party's view of that situation?

[Answer] As you say, this is one of the most difficult issues, because one sector is interested in seizing power through violent means. Our party is of the opinion that we must continue making an appeal to the groups rebelling in arms, to become incorporated into the democratic process, in this process wherein it will be the Salvadoran people who decide on the amount of power to be given to these groups.

They are Salvadoran brothers, although they have definitely adopted the violent method; but this does not mean that no effort should be made to incorporate them again into our society. It is unfortunate that there has been so much destruction and so much violence; and that is why it is essential that there be a pacification process, which will be possible only if the political facilities are provided for these groups to observe that the democratic system offers them an alternative. They should be given an opportunity to participate in the election process on an equal basis, wherein there is no presumptuousness of any political party over another, and wherein they will have an equal opportunity to compete for the share of power that the Salvadoran people will grant them.

Record of PCN

[Question] PCN has a long record. What could you tell us about it?

[Answer] PCN came into existence in 1961, and our principles and goals are based on the Constitution of 1962. We had several governments, the last of which was unfinished.

With regard to the PCN governments, I would like to say that, like anyone in power, when one acts, one is correct or mistaken. We had a great many successes, but we also made mistakes, because we are human. On the institutional level, I can say that our governments fought in the social realm, offered the first Labor Code and created the Social Fund for Housing, Figape, the Agricultural-Livestock Development Bank and other institutions which have great social usefulness for the Salvadoran people.

Unfortunately, when the previous governments are attacked, there is an attempt to disregard all these constructive efforts that were made, as well as the physical accomplishment, such as the Comalapa airport, one of the most operative ones in Central America, and the hydroelectric dams that will afford us future industrialization and will remove us somewhat from the enslavement of dependence on oil.

In addition, we have highways, schools, clinics and hospitals, and PCN's achievements are in even the most remote corners of the country, for all Salvadorans to see.

With respect to the shortcomings, I shall make no comment because the Salvadoran people are familiar with them. This is insofar as PCN governments are concerned.

But after 15 October when we were removed from power, for reasons already known, we made an effort to keep our political institution from dying. On this occasion we must also stress that it is the only political party in the history of El Salvador that managed to survive a coup d'etat.

At first, people did not believe that PCN would manage to survive, but each day the Salvadoran people are recovering confidence and are remembering again, and I would like to emphasize this, that in PCN's time we had a better life; we had calmness; there was stability, security, employment; living was far cheaper than it is now; and all the conditions were far better when PCN was there.

The Salvadoran people, who are wise, are starting to recall that those times were better; and that is why we expect that in the coming elections the majority of the people will support us for a resumption of the path that we lost; that path which was diverted, and which is the path that PCN must establish again, the one for improvement and progress in El Salvador. So stated Deputy Hugo Carrillo.

2909

CSO: 3248/327

CTS LEADER CRITICIZES DEATH SQUADS, INSURGENTS

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 28 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Union leader Eugenio Leon claims that "the forces of evil are attempting to stifle the voice of reason and justice," in a document which he distributed among the deputies and which, he says, served as a basis for the address that he delivered in his capacity as representative of Salvador's workers at the forum on El Salvador held recently in Houston, Texas.

Eugenio Leon makes an analysis of the situation that exists in our country, and maintains that the years we have experienced in an agonizing state of war and terrorism have not solved the people's very serious problems. He adds: "On the contrary, what they have done is leave us in a state of material, moral and psychological destruction."

Leon, head of CTS (Central Organization of Salvadoran Workers), claims that in recent months there has been another outbreak of warlike and terrorist action. Then he adds: "The only thing that it shows us that that we have not learned the lesson of what is civilized and humane; it appears that every day we are becoming more savage, instead of more humane or more united; not to mention deciding to live as true Christians."

In his document, Eugenio Leon divides the analysis into several parts, which include political, military, social, moral, religious and other areas. He says that our country "is being turned into an immense barracks where our youth, instead of having the doors of educational and scientific and technical training centers opened to them, are being taught how to handle weapons and to harden their consciences."

As for the rebel groups, he asserts: "The insurgent forces guided and directed by material and totalitarian ideals, far from attaining their goals of gaining power to subject our people to control by the communist system, have left destruction and shown their irrational nature in all its grossness."

The labor leader strongly criticizes the "death squads," and states: "They have arisen again, showing their destructive claws, ending lives of labor unionists, professionals and peasants who are condemned to death for having ideas opposed to them." He also scores them for uttering public threats against the leading representatives of the Salvadoran Church.

Eugenio Leon comments on the "alarming" situation of the labor sectors, noting that there is unemployment, frozen wages, runaway inflation, anti-labor decrees and a breakup of the little organized force on the labor union level.

Referring to the "prospects for a solution," he remarks: "This entire tragic situation requires solutions that are practical, just, humane and democratic." He calls for a real respect for human rights, the holding of elections, a dialog with the insurgent forces, promulgation of unlimited amnesty, reorganization of the judicial branch, continuity of agrarian reform, etc.

In the social realm, he proposes, among other things, free exercise of the rights of union organization, promotion of cooperative work, fostering of the development of peasant and urban communities and a literacy campaign. In the economic area, he claims that sources of employment must be reopened, as well as aid for the development of small and medium-sized businesses, better prices for our export products, the imposition of stringent measures against inflation, the combating of administrative corruption and the balancing of current wages.

2909

CSO: 3248/327

FINAL REGION 2 DEVELOPMENT PLANS WILL AID THOUSANDS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] ANNA REGINA: (GNA)--About 30 000 persons comprising 5 000 families on the Essequibo Coast are likely to benefit from the completion of the last phase of the Tapakuma Irrigation Project Scheme (TIPS).

Most of the persons are rice farmers who are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

According to a document issued by the then Ministry of National Development and Agriculture in 1977, the project has a four-fold goal.

It seeks to substantially increase rice production in an area of 17 010 hectares, improve rice quality, strengthen Guyana's position as the major rice producer in Caricom and contribute to an increase in foreign exchange.

The project is seeking to increase rice production through the rehabilitation, improvement and extension of irrigation and drainage systems, the provision of better access to the farms and the introduction of double cropping in the project area.

Improvement works for farm and agricultural development, the use of improved seed varieties, better pest and disease control were also attempted.

At the commencement of the project, the estimated land under cultivation was 12 500 hectares. An additional 2 120 hectares is expected to be developed for rice production in the Somerset-Berks area and another 2 400 hectares at the southern end of the project area to bring the total for the project to 17 010 hectares.

Among benefits which the farmers have derived from the project is a reduction in seasonal employment since cropping intensify has already increased.

Already contracts one, three and four of the project have been completed. Contract one was done by the international firm of Reed and Mallik at a cost of fifty million dollars. It was handed over recently to the regional administration of Region Two during Agriculture Month.

Contracts three and four included the provision of nine water pumps and the training of Guyanese to operate these pumps.

The firm of Guyconstruct recently signed an agreement to finish work on contract two, which seeks to improve facilities at the southern end of the coast.

The completion of the whole project is expected to more than double farm production in the area.

CSO: 3298/382

LAND ACQUISITION BILL PROMPTS ROW WITH PPP, MIRROR

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Dec 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] CONSIDERATION by the National Assembly yesterday of the Acquisition of Lands (not beneficially occupied) Bill 1983, tabled last Thursday was deferred to a date to be fixed, to allow Vice-President Production, Cde Desmond Hoyte, to have further discussions with his Cabinet colleagues.

The Bill seeks to make provision for the acquisition by Government of lands which are not beneficially occupied, so as to ensure rational use of such land.

The postponement, proposed by Cde. Hoyte, stemmed from a meeting last week between the Vice-President and members of the Minority Party at which aspects of the Bill were discussed. Cde Hoyte wants more time to have consultations with his colleagues on the result of that meeting.

Cde Hoyte however, reported to the National Assembly yesterday, that he was disturbed by an article published in the last issue of the Mirror newspaper. The article referred to the meeting between Cde Hoyte and members of the People's Progressive Party and said that the PPP, was seeking to have the proposed Bill withdrawn.

The article further stated that "the PNC will now, having heard the arguments of the PPP Parliamentary Group, have to decide whether or not it will proceed with the Bill."

According to the Vice-President, the Leader of the Minority last week requested an interview with him on the Bill. He therefore asked hearing on it in the National Assembly to be deferred, and the subsequent meeting was held "in good faith" and was fruitful.

He said that the Mirror publication put him in an invidious position. He however, said that despite "an act of bad faith" he would present the views of the PPP to the Government in keeping with the undertaking at the discussions last week. PPP member, Cde Boysie Ramkarran, expressed regret for the appearance of the article, which he said was published before the discussions, as the newspaper, is printed early, and further, none of the persons in the discussion expressed the view as represented in the article. (GNA)

CSO: 3298/382

BRIEFS

MAIL TAMPERING--THE Guyana Post Office Corporation received 600 bags of mail from England, Canada, and the United States of America over the weekend, but it was discovered that a large number of the letters were tampered with. According to Cde. Edward Noble, Assistant Postmaster General, Operations, there was no evidence that the mail bags had been opened at the time after sealing, so the tampering must have occurred at the office of post in the various countries. He said that the postal administrations involved have been notified. Cde. Eileen Cox, head of the Guyana Consumers' Association, stated after inspecting the damaged envelopes and packages, that the persons responsible for this act must have had a lot of time on their hands and hinted that the tampering must have occurred during delays at intransit points, and called for action to be taken to ensure speedy transport of mail thereby reducing the risk of tampering. Cde. Noble, however, insisted that the mail was not broached at the intransit points since the bags remained sealed, but said that delay in mail delivery resulted from a build-up at intransit points. He said that the Post Office will notify all persons to whom the tampered mail was addressed and invite them to the General Post Office where the letters and packages can be uplifted. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Dec 83 p 16]

DAIRY FARMING--ON the motion calling for the approval of the \$55.9 million in supplementary provisions, the four Minority members who spoke raised no strong objection to the expenditure. Reepu Daman Persaud agreed with Vice-President, Production, Desmond Hoyte, that there is the need for increased emphasis on dairy farming. But, according to Persaud, funds for such programmes are often not properly utilised. In response, Cde Hoyte explained that the dairy industry is receiving assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Yugoslavia. He noted that several dairy farmers are considering moving further inland since adequate pasturage on the coastland is becoming a problem. The Vice-President identified suitable areas for dairy farming in Region Five. GNA. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Dec 83 p 1]

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL--DURING the day's sitting, Vice-President, Hamilton Green said that steps are being taken to improve communication between Air Traffic Control with aircraft operating in the interior. The assurance was given by the Vice-President in response to a question from PPP front-bencher Ramkarran. And in response to a question from Ramkarran, Health Minister Richard Van West Charles told the House that the cost of labour and materials for the

construction of fowl pens at the Mahaica Hospital Complex amounted to \$33 758 and \$59 097 respectively. The minister also explained that he is unaware that the Land Rover stationed at the Mahaica Hospital is being used for unauthorised purposes. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Dec 83 p 1]

PRICE CONTROL VIOLATIONS--THE Price Control Squad has intensified its drive against people who sell contraband items and who sell other items above the controlled price. The squad, over the weekend, arrested and charged over 30 persons who were found dealing with contraband items, mostly wheat bread and tinned products. They have also arrested and charged a number of persons selling cigarettes above the controlled price. Those charged are expected to appear before a magistrate today. A spokesman for the squad said that with the Christmas season less than two weeks away, the vendors are taking advantage of some of the basic items that are in short supply and have jacked up the price. He said that the squad will continue its drive against these persons, and would carry the exercise to other areas. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Dec 83 p 3]

GUYSUCO RICE GROWING--GUYSUCO's Other Crop Division has recently harvested some 8,785 bags of paddy from 567,6 acres of land which had been cultivated, a release from the corporation stated Friday. This was the fourth harvest since Guysuco launched its rice programme at Manaribisi last year. Since the programme started 76 758 bags have been harvested from a total of 3 784,3 acres. During next week, some 210 acres will be planted at Haynes, five miles in, at Blairmont estate. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Dec 83 p 8]

RISE IN PORK PRICES--CHRISTMAS shoppers seem assured of an adequate supply of ham for the festive season, but it promises to be hard on their budgets as the price of this traditional Christmas product has increased steeply. Ham is available at a price range of \$12.65 to \$15 per pound. The main reason for the price escalation is the increase in the cost of the pigs by over 200 per cent. A spokesman for a Georgetown consumer outlet that processes and sells the product pleaded that the "price increase is not our fault." Supermarket managers complain that last year they paid \$2.25 per pound for pigs, but this year it has hit a record \$6.25 per pound. Further, the quality of pork has dropped due to the absence of grades for this meat. The lack of grades results from the low supply of pork, a situation which caused anxious producers to buy the commodity without demanding grades. The rise in pork prices was spurred by the entry into the business of market speculators, another form of middlemen, who buy-out entire pig sties early in the year then use this stranglehold gained to resell at high prices. Another factor responsible for this situation is the lack of imported pig feed and the resulting abandonment of animal husbandry practices by many farmers, thus creating a shortage. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Dec 83 p 3]

RETURN OF CO-OPS--EAST BERBICE--(GNA) Three co-operative societies which are now being re-structured in the East Berbice-Corentyne Region are to go into rice cultivation in a big way next year. So said Regional Co-operative Officer Cde Edith Jones late last week when she addressed the Regional Administrative Council meeting in New Amsterdam. She said the Port Mourant Follow-up, Port Mourant United and Brighton Sun-Flower co-operative societies have decided to return to the land for the 1984 Autumn rice crop. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 18 Dec 83 p 9]

REGION 6 ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING--THE Regional Administration Region Six, took a decision last week to summon all district officers elected for 1984 to a special meeting tomorrow to discuss matters pertaining to their office. At the meeting Member of Parliament, Cde. Milton Armogan, explained that many of the newly-elected officers were not certain of their roles and as such guidelines should be given so that they could perform effectively. Cde. Armogan said that although the new officers were told of their function, many are still not acquainted with the task they have to perform. And another Member of Parliament, Cde. C. Primo, proposed that Regional Supervisor, Cde. Santon Lambert, fill the existing vacancy on the Regional Democratic Council. Cde. Primo said that the seat was vacant for some time now and it is only right for the Regional Supervisor to fill the vacancy since he is a political leader in the Region. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 11 Dec 83 p 3]

REGION 6 DISTRICT CONFERENCE--REGION Six will hold its last annual district Conference today up the Canje River at the Bara Kara Primary School. The Second Annual District Conference of District 8--Canje River, will be addressed by Minister of Agriculture, Cde. Sallahuddin while Regional Supervisor Cde. Santon Lambert will give the charge and installation of office-bearers. Also on the agenda will be the Chairman and Secretary's reports after which there will be a cultural presentation. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 11 Dec 83 p 3]

YOUTH MOVEMENT REORGANIZATION--Members of the National Executive of the Young Socialist Movement met recently and discussed among other things the restructuring and reorganising of the Central Committee of the organisation. The discussion came in the wake of the YSM's just concluded General Council meeting which examined and analysed some of the problems within the Central Committee. Most of the difficulties in the Central Committee seem to come from personnel being assigned tasks and having being unable to execute these for one reason or other. However with a reorganised committee of young enthusiastic leaders who are willing to make positive contributions, the YSM should be operating smoothly. Central Executive committee meeting, was the first to be held since its General Council gathering some weeks ago. The newly appointed would be expected to serve the committee effectively until the Biennial Congress in August. Most of the leaders who have been on the Executive Committee have been performing pressing duties for the parent organisation, the PNC along with their YSM commitments. The new YSM leadership would be drawn from among these. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 11 Dec 83 p 3]

POLICE IN AGRICULTURE--CONSIDERING that they exist, not only for defence of the country and for the maintenance of law and order but also for its development, all sections of the Guyana Defence Force, the Guyana National Service, the People's Militia and the Police are involved in development projects, identifiably agriculture. In keeping with this involvement, a report states that the Commissioner of Police, Cde. Lloyd Barker, declared open recently another police agricultural plot at Ruimveldt police station. Comprising one hectare, of land, the plot is one of several ventures in agricultural production which the police have undertaken in co-operation with residents in the East Ruimveldt area. There has been a noticeable improvement in the agricultural thrust in the Ruimveldt area, specially East, since the men and officers of the

station there have become actively involved in this venture. The abundance of idle land, including backyards and parapets, generally makes Ruimveldt an ideal area for production. The agricultural activities of the East Ruimveldt police appear to be giving residents the incentive to production they long needed in the form of security of their crops against prediallarcenists. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 11 Dec 83 p 5]

UNION PROTEST--THE three unions in the sugar industry have issued a statement protesting the undue delays in settling the annual production incentive. The statement reads:--The Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union (GAWU), the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE) and the Guyana Field Foremen and Supervisors' Union have expressed much concern over the failure to settle the Annual Production Incentive (API) Agreement for the year. The negotiations broke down with Guysuco on November 2 and the parties agreed to have conciliation at the Ministry of Manpower and Co-operatives. Three meetings were held, the last being on November 23 when the conciliator Z. Majeed, Deputy Labour Officer, decided to meet the parties separately. A meeting was held with Guysuco on November 24 and one was held with the Unions on November 26 after which the conciliator said he would discuss the matter with the Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives. The Unions have made several requests to the conciliator without being able to attain any concrete information as regards the Ministry's position on the issue. [Excerpt] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 18 Dec 83 p 4]

REGION 6 PROGRAM--The Regional Democratic Council of Region 6 has approved the Regional and Local Authorities Development Programme planned for next year. The million dollar D-programme, which was presented by Regional Executive Officer, Eustace Wilson yesterday at the Regional boardroom, New Amsterdam, will give priority to the agricultural thrust in the Region. Regional Chairman, Cde Surujnarine Singh, also explained that in the New Year emphasis will be placed on drainage and irrigation and the development of farm to market roads. At the same time, he said, the Region would strive to achieve its regional production targets in every area especially in agriculture. Those local authorities which had their estimates and D-Programme approved by the RDC, were Sisters-Edinburgh, Fyrish-Gibraltar, Hampshire-Kilcoy, East Coast, No. 51-Good Hope and the Orealla Amerindian District. Earlier in the meeting, the minority opposition PPP councillors staged a walkout after the police were called in to reject two of their members from the session. The police action was taken after councillors Budram Mahadeo and Carl Douglas had refused to obey an order from the Chairman to withdraw from the meeting for allegedly using un-Parliamentary language (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 11 Dec 83 p 8]

CSO: 3298/383

DEVELOPMENTS ON POLITICAL FRONT, IN GOVERNMENT REPORTED

Manley on Local Elections

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Dec 83 p 12

[Text]

The president of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley, has asked Prime Minister Edward Seaga to take steps to make available to the Electoral Advisory Committee the resources necessary to complete the enumeration exercise and preparation of the new electoral lists, so that these and photo-ID cards will be ready in time for the conduct of the Local Government elections in March next year.

Mr. Manley said in a letter that Local Government elections were due in March 1984, and that it was important that these elections be held on schedule and on the basis of the new electoral lists and ID cards with photographs distributed to electors. It was his view that the new system could be ready in time if the funds needed were made available to the Electoral Advisory Committee.

He repeated that the PNP would not contest any election held prior to the completion of the new voters' lists and the distribution of the ID cards. He reiterated that the party would participate fully in the electoral process "the minute the agreements and pledges made between the JLP and the PNP to the nation have been honoured".

Manley Letter to Seaga

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 25 Dec 83 p 21

[Text]

THE EDITOR: I have sent the following letter to the Prime Minister:

I am etc.

MICHAEL MANLEY, President
People's National Party
Kingston
December 22

Dear Sir: I write to remind you that the Local Government Elections are due in March 1984. It is important that these elections be held on

schedule and equally important that they should be held on the basis of the new electoral lists and in circumstances where the ID-cards with photographs have been distributed. If the necessary resources are made available to the Electoral Advisory Committee to permit the acceleration of the various activities which are necessary to complete and check the lists and distribute the ID-cards, the new system can be ready in time.

As you are aware, the People's National Party will not contest any election which is held prior

to the completion of the new voters lists and the distribution of the ID-cards. Equally, we have made it clear that we will participate fully in the electoral process the minute the agreements and pledges made between the JLP and the PNP and to the Nation have been honoured.

We are proposing, therefore, on behalf of the 55% of the people who are entitled to form the Jamaican electorate and who now support the People's National Party, that you immediately issue the necessary instructions to make available

to the Electoral Advisory Committee the resources necessary to ensure that the target of a local government election held at the time required by Law be met and that this election be held on the basis of those elements of the solemn agreement on Electoral Reform which are relevant at this time, namely, a new voters list and Photo-ID cards distributed to the electors.

Yours sincerely
MICHAEL MANLEY

Hill Letter To Florizel

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 25 Dec 83 p 21

[Text]

The EDITOR, Sir:-I have today sent the following letter to the Governor-General.

I am etc.,

WILTON O. HILL Q.C.

Former Minister of Govt.

c/o 2 Riverside Drive,

Gordon Town P.O.

St. Andrew.

December 22, 1983

His Excellency,

The Most. Hon. Sir Florizel Glasspole,

O.N., C.C.M.G., C.D.,

Kings House,

Jamaica.

Your Excellency,

I am of the view that as Head of State, you possess in your office an inherent power and duty to act to preserve our two-party system of Government which is the very essence of the letter and spirit of our Constitution and appears to be under threat of suspension and/or extinction.

I find support for the above proposition relating to your power and duty in the very bold and decisive manner in which the Government of Jamaica is acting in support of the exercise of a similar inherent power and duty by the Governor General of Grenada in the present Grenadian context.

I respectfully ask you to consider whether you should not now act to restore the presence of our two main parties in our Parliament, and in deciding, I ask you to take into consideration the following:-

(1) That the Prime Minister made a Statement to Parliament in the form of an undertaking that he would not call a General Election before the new electoral system was in place.

(2) That the Prime Minister did not ask Parliament, as he was well able to, to release him from his undertaking before he called the recent General Election.

(3) Whether in any other system of government, based on the "Westminster Model" a Prime Minister could give and break such an undertaking and survive in office, though he might well have been invited to break the undertaking by the PNP's challenge to his integrity.

(4) If Parliament had released the Prime Minister from his undertaking, what might have been the attitude of the P.N.P. to an election boycott?

(5) Whether the P.N.P. had in fact negated the two-party system or whether they have acted in protest against the breach of his undertaking by the Prime Minister, which breach indirectly resulted in large numbers of our citizens being disfranchised, contrary to the spirit of Section 38 (1) of the constitution which states:-

Any law for the time being providing for the election of members of the House of Representatives shall —contain provisions designed to ensure that so far as is practicable, any person entitled to vote at an election of members of the House of Representatives shall have a reasonable opportunity of so voting.

Last bastion

(6) Whether the inordinately short delay which would have resulted from the Prime Minister keeping his undertaking would have resulted in any real harm to the government and/or the people of Jamaica.

(7) That the Governor General of Australia in the not too distant past dissolved Parliament in his own discretion and against the wishes of his Prime Minister when he felt that it was in the best interest of the nation.

(8) The several opinion polls indicating the wishes of the people in this matter which polls have in the past proved to be reasonably accurate.

(9) That as Head of State you are the ultimate repository of power, the final protector of democracy and the last bastion against abuse direct or indirect, of the letter and/or the spirit of our Constitution from whatever source.

I therefore respectfully request that you consider using your good and high office to ensure that the new electoral system is put into place with all deliberate haste, and then:-

Summon the leader of both the J.L.P. and the P.N.P. before you with a view to arriving at a consensus as to the reinstitution of our two-party system of government, and if necessary, to further summon before you, the Prime Minister and in accordance with his oath of

office, require him to give you his counsel and advice as to whether, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, he considers it necessary to the good management of the public affairs of Jamaica, that Parliament be dissolved and new elections be held.

I address Your Excellency in these terms because I feel that as one of Her Majesty's Counsel, it is my private privilege and indeed my duty to tender you my advice in these matters.

I have the honour, to be Your Excellency's obedient servant,
Wilton Orvil Hill,
Queen's Counsel

Seaga on Directorate Changes

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Dec 83 pp 1, 19

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Edward Seaga has reduced the political directorate from 39 in the previous government to 28 in this administration with the appointment yesterday of nine Ministers of State and three Parliamentary Secretaries. A 16-man Cabinet was appointed on Monday.

In the previous administration, there was a total of 24 Ministers of State and Parliamentary Secretaries, and a 14-member Cabinet.

Addressing the swearing-in ceremony for 12 Ministers of State and Parliamentary Secretaries at King's House, Mr. Seaga said that the reduction of the political directorate is an indication that great emphasis will be placed on services at the level of constituencies.

He said that this was in keeping with his announcement at his swearing-in to increase the process of access to Members of Parliament, and that in the new government there is need for more Parliamentary strength at the level of the constituencies.

With special reference to Mr. St. Clair Shirley, the Prime Minister said that he had asked to be relieved of the position of Minister of State as he wished to concentrate on the work in his constituency, particularly in view of the great push being made there in coffee production.

Mr. Seaga said that in making the new appointments he felt satisfied that he had been able to improve the strength of the last administration. He said he looked forward to making other

appointments in the future as the need arises. He said that to the extent where capability is shown through field work, those Members of Parliament who have worked and built up their political strength at the constituency level will be considered.

THOSE APPOINTED Ministers of State by the Governor General, the Most Hon. Sir Florizel Glasspole, on the advice of the Prime Minister, are the Hon. Enid Bennett; the Hon. Dr. Henry "Marco" Brown; the Hon. Dr. Neville Gallimore; the Hon. Michael Henry; the Hon. Anthony Johnson; the Hon. Brascoe Lee; the Hon. Robert Marsh; the Hon. Karl Samuda and the Hon. Kingsley Sangster.

The three Parliamentary Secretaries are Dr. Horace Chang, Miss Olivia "Babsy" Grange and Mr. Keith Russell.

Included among the appointments are three promotions of Parliamentary Secretaries from the previous administration to Ministers of State in this administration; two transfers of Ministers of States; and three new appointments to the political directorate.

Promoted from Parliamentary Secretaries are the Hon. Kingsley Sangster, the Hon. Brascoe Lee and the Hon. Karl Samuda. Mr. Sangster will stay at the Ministry of Youth and Community Development to which he was assigned as Parliamentary Secretary in the last administration, while Mr. Samuda is promoted and transferred to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Staying in their old posts are the Hon. Enid Bennett at the Ministry of Local Government; the Hon. Dr. Neville Gallimore at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; and the Hon. Robert Marsh at the Ministry of Construction.

Shifted to new responsibilities are the Hon. Anthony Johnson from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to the Ministry of Agriculture; and the Hon. Karl Samuda from the Ministry of Health and Environmental Control to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The Hon. Michael Henry has been shifted from the Ministry of Tourism to the Office of the Prime Minister but he still has responsibilities for Information for which Mr. Seaga now holds Cabinet portfolio responsibility.

The Ministers of State and their responsibilities as announced by Mr. Seaga are:

The Hon. Enid Bennett.....Ministry of Local Government

The Hon. Dr. Henry "Marco" Brown.....Ministry of Tourism

The Hon. Neville Gallimore.....Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

The Hon. Michael Henry.....Office of the Prime Minister

The Hon. Anthony Johnson.....Ministry of Agriculture

The Hon. Brascoe Lee.....Ministry of Agriculture

The Hon. Robert Marsh.....Ministry of Construction

The Hon. Karl Samuda.....Ministry of Industry and Commerce

The Hon. Kingsley Sangster.....Ministry of Youth and Community Development

The responsibilities of those appointed Parliamentary Secretaries are: Dr. Horace Chang to the Ministry of Health; Senator Olivia Grange to the Office of the Prime Minister; and Mr. Keith Russell to the Ministry of Youth and Community Development.

SPEAKING OF EACH new appointment individually, Mr. Seaga said

that Miss Bennett was re-appointed to the Ministry of Local Government to offer continuity to the new Minister, and also because of her performance in that Ministry during the last administration.

He said that as a deputy leader of the Jamaica Labour Party, Miss Bennett is one party member who continues to show excellent results in her understanding of the grassroots and that she has used this sensitivity well in her position as Minister of State in the Ministry of Local Government. He also commended her for her service to that Ministry.

Of Dr. Brown's re-appointment to the Ministry of Tourism with special responsibilities for training, Mr. Seaga said that being a member of Parliament for St. James, Dr. Brown represents the heart of tourism and is in an appropriate area to reflect the aspirations of the people of that area.

The Prime Minister said that during this term of office, great emphasis must be given to the local functionaries in the tourist industry. He said that already a programme of training for craft workers was successfully completed and he has asked Dr. Brown to extend training to the transport sector, particularly taxi and tour operators, car rental agencies, customs and immigration officers and front office personnel in an effort to maintain and improve the success of the industry.

In addition, he said that legislation is to come which will require the licensing of those persons who operate in tourism so that those who do not perform well "and let us down" will not receive renewal of licences, and therefore will not be able to spoil the product.

Of Dr. Gallimore, Mr. Seaga said that although he deserved a Cabinet position because of his status and seniority in the Party, he had continued to deny him one because of his invaluable service to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the continued need for that service.

He said that Mr. Mike Henry will continue to have responsibility for information, but will now work from the Office of the Prime Minister since he has once again assumed responsibilities for that portfolio. Mr. Seaga cited Mr. Henry as one of those Members of

Parliament who has kept party flags flying high in his constituency and who has done well in terms of representing his constituents.

Mr. Seaga said that Mr. Anthony Johnson has been shifted to the Ministry of Agriculture because of the great emphasis that is being placed on that sector and also because he is a trained agricultural economist. He will have responsibilities for Commodity Boards and will oversee their structural adjustment and the relaxation of the bureaucracy in the process of expanding the production of coffee, cocoa, citrus and pimento. He will also have responsibilities for a programme of expanding ethnic food crops such as yam and cocoa in an effort to develop this area of great agricultural potential which Mr. Seaga said must be developed during this term of office.

Mr. Brascoe Lee, he said, will continue to co-ordinate efforts of Agro-21, and deal with the 183,000 small farmers who must be in the forefront of the development of agriculture. He said that Mr. Lee, who was promoted from Parliamentary Secretary in the last administration, has shown great skill in dealing with the farming community and that with the good team around him, he is looking for great things in agriculture.

At the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Seaga said, Mr. Karl Samuda will deal with prices to ensure that as the programme of de-regulation continues, and the setting of prices are left to market forces, these mechanisms are not distorted by any elements of greed and selfishness.

He said that this will be a major assignment but that Mr. Samuda's methodical work at the Ministry of Health was an important factor in promoting him from Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State.

Mr. Seaga said that Mr. Samuda will be assisted in this critical area by the new public consciousness which is beginning to emerge. He said by their buying actions during this season Christmas shoppers were saying to merchants that their level of tolerance to high prices was being exceeded and that they have put on brakes on their shopping and are only accepting items which give value for money.

Mr. Kingsley Sangster will continue to have responsibility for the development of youth activities, and will be working with the new Minister of Youth (the Hon. Edmund Bartlett) and the outgoing Minister (the Hon. Errol Anderson) as well as Miss Grange on the 1985 International Youth Festival which will be staged in Jamaica, and out of which a centre for democratic youth worldwide will be established in the island.

Of his new Parliamentary Secretaries Mr. Seaga said that they have shown the capabilities of hard workers, and he welcomed them to the team. He said that Miss Grange, who was the only Senator also appointed yesterday by the Governor General, will be assigned to the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibilities in the area of Culture — Festival and National Heritage Week activities, and Information and in the Senate she will represent the governing party's views on matters affecting youth, culture and information.

Seizure of WPJ Leader's Car

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 25 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

A Lada motor car licensed in the name of Dr. Trevor Monroe, Secretary of the Workers Party of Jamaica, has been seized by the police and, according to the police, a large quan-

tity of drugs and Communist literature on Nicaragua found in it.

The car was being driven at the time by a Civil Servant who identified himself as Aubrey Cuff, Field Officer attached to

the Department of Statistics and residing at 4 Teak Way, Kingston 6.

Cuff has been charged with a breach of the Medical Act — having prohibited drugs in his possession; and a breach of the Road Traffic Law — dangerous driving.

According to the police, on Thursday afternoon a yellow Lada motorcar licensed FU0300 was being driven along the Lady Musgrave Road in a zigzag manner when it was intercepted by a police radio car.

The driver, who identified himself as Cuff, was ordered to drive the car to the Half Way Tree Police

Station where it was searched in his presence.

The police said that they found in it a doctor's medical kit laden with drugs, including pain-killers, syringes, capsules, bandages and other drugs prohibited, to be in the possession of persons other than a certified medical officer.

Cuff was charged and is now in custody, pending further police investigations. He has been refused bail and is to appear in the Half Way Tree Court next week.

The car has also been detained pending further police investigation.

Voter Registration Extension

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

The current enumeration of electors is to be extended by ten days from January 6 to 15 in all constituencies, in order to provide a further opportunity to those qualified persons who, for one reason or another, have not yet been enumerated to be registered.

By a decision of the Electoral Advisory Committee, field operations in the enumeration are to be re-opened on Friday, January 6, 1984 and continue until January 15. A release issued by the Committee on Friday said:

"The Electoral Advisory Committee has decided to

re-open the field operations of the current enumeration exercise on January 6, 1984 and to extend the operation until January 15, 1984. This will apply to all constituencies:

"An opportunity is thus being provided for those qualified persons who, for one reason or another, have not so far been enumerated to be registered. It is hoped that such persons will take advantage of this opportunity.

"House to house enumeration will end on Sunday, January 15.

The enumeration exercise which began on August 22 this year, ended officially on Monday November 28,

but it was announced then that after the December 15 General Elections, field work in six constituencies would be resumed for one week. The six were said to be: St. Andrew North Central; St. Andrew West Rural; St. Andrew Western; St. Andrew Southern; St. Andrew Eastern and St. James Northwestern.

The new decision of the Electoral Advisory Committee has now extended the field work in all 60 constituencies from Friday January 6 to Sunday January 15.

According to reports reaching the Gleaner, the number of those registered so far on the new ID system is substantially less than the number of registered voters on the 1980 list.

Stone on Election Polls

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Dec 83 p 10

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Excerpts]

After eight years of conducting public opinion polls for the **Daily Gleaner** over which period I have done 21 national polls, it is a bit surprising and tiresome to see letters from readers who write as if one is attempting this business for the first time.

Reader Diane Vendryes claims that our December 1983 poll contains a mere estimate of party standings and really says nothing about how people would vote. She insists that we are confronted with the problem of inferring behaviour from attitude; a matter which has plagued many areas of social science research.

Such abstract ways of stating a problem never takes us very far. The issue of measurement accuracy has to be concretised with specific reference to voting, and the track record of our polling has to be examined to see whether the inference we made is justified.

Voting behaviour is not a new field. There is a vast amount of literature on it. One fact that emerges from this literature is that one of the most important factors facilitating accurate measurement of voter choice is the stimulus of party campaigning which pulls out the latent political inclinations of voters. The worst time to do polls is when no political stimulus exists. In this respect, our recent polls which take place against a background of active PNP and JLP campaigning is likely to be more accurate than earlier polls done when there was no such stimulus to prime voter choice.

Jamaican voting patterns are becoming more complex. Voting is less stable. Party loyalties are weakening. There is a larger grouping of people voting on single issues. There are now many such issues (Communism, Cuba-Grenada, which party is for poor people, which party leader can run things properly, integrity and trustworthiness of leaders etc. etc.)

One cannot do justice to the complexity of the phenomena of Jamaican voting patterns in a short news commentary which presents poll findings.

When JLP was riding high in the 1970s I was often asked to write in-depth Sunday commentary on the poll results. Since the political tables have turned I have not been asked to do so. Such in-depth commentary might have avoided reader Vendryes' confusion.

I have become quite concerned about how poll results are affecting the decisions of PNP and JLP politicians. Our leaders are taking polls much too seriously and that is removing some of the normal give and take in political life which comes from a situation in which party leaders have no precise way of knowing how much mass support they have at any given moment. Regrettably, the December 1983 polls I did for the **Gleaner** are going to be the last Stone Polls done for this newspaper. As I indicated at my Inaugural Professorial lecture, my research work is moving into other areas and Stone Polls are due to retire after a long 8 year innings at 21 national opinion polls. The innings ended with the December 1983 polls.

Fletcher on Senate Appointment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

Mr. Courtney Fletcher, in a statement issued last Saturday, said he had accepted appointment to the Senate represent the views of the farming community in the Upper House.

Mr. Fletcher, who is also President of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, issued the statement after the PNP had announced that his life membership in the party would be withdrawn because of his appointment to the Senate.

Following is the text of his statement:

"Other than the Church, there is no rural public service organization besides the Jamaica Agricultural Society that could be depended on to maintain the necessary balance of power calculated to assure socio-economic advancement in this country.

Any effort to deny the JAS of its individual rights to exert itself to this purpose is a disservice unbecoming of any functional body loyal to the best interest of the country.

On the front page of today's Gleaner appears an article captioned "Fletcher, Sinclair expulsion from PNP recommended." This article substantiated the release of the electronic media last night to the effect that the PNP Executive proposes to recommend the removal of my name from the Register of Life Members, because I accepted the invitation to serve as one of the Senators to form the Opposition in the Upper Chamber of the new Parliament.

I recall this has been an honorary membership awarded by the Party in honest appreciation of services rendered to them by me as National Organizer which resulted in a landslide victory in the 1972 General Elections.

In my opinion, the Executive has over-reacted to this situation, and has not given enough thought to the fact that despite a PNP boycott to the recent General Elections, the country's business must go on until another election is held.

When I was asked to

serve as Senator, I accepted it with the understanding that I was being nominated to represent the farmers of Jamaica, defend their economic and social rights, put forward their point of view on policy issues affecting their economic advancement and thereby champion their cause.

As President of the JAS, I represent all farmers regardless of their political persuasion and if I were to turn down this opportunity to speak out fearlessly on their behalf, I would be abdicating my responsibility to represent them and would no longer deserve the confidence which they have reposed in me since 1974, when I was first elected.

The fact of the matter is that my acceptance of this nomination to the Senate was well considered, and was based on my earnest desire to ensure that the well-being of the farming community which I have the honour to lead over these last nine years was taken care of.

The Government of the day has a responsibility to

farmers as a whole. It cannot be said that we are not prepared to cooperate with them in the discharge of that responsibility notwithstanding the political crisis that has arisen. In fact, the JAS in its policy, treats all matters relating to the country as a whole, without prejudice.

In this connection, I know that I have no mandate to speak on behalf of the PNP, and had no intention to do so. My intention, I must repeat, is to give farmers a strong voice in the Senate and speak out as forcefully as I can on their behalf."

Permanent Secretary Shifts

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

Two shifts in the ranks of Permanent Secretaries are being made, the Gleaner has learned. Mr. Don Bryson is moving to the Prime Minister's Office from the Ministry of Tourism and Mr. Derrick Dyer is being shifted from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Tourism.

Mr. Harry Armstrong, Director of Technical Services in the Ministry of Agriculture, will act as Per-

manent Secretary in that Ministry.

Mr. Fred Zenny, Director of Marketing and Credit in the Ministry of Agriculture since 1980 has resigned and will take up a new appointment as a regional director of the Food and Agricultural Organisation on Jan 15. Mr. Zenny also served as Director of Production and Extension in the Ministry of Agriculture from 1975 to 1980.

Impact of Sinclair's Resignation

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

Montego Bay, Jan. 2

(From a correspondent)

Senator Charles Sinclair's sudden, dramatic resignation on Saturday from the People's National Party has stunned Montego Bay—though it didn't come as a surprise.

For while this suave, astute and articulate businessman had been a PNP diehard for many years, it was well known that he was at loggerheads with the party's hierarchy over leadership policy, particularly the democratic socialism posture of the PNP.

It had been a creeping dispute, and over the past six or so years, Charles Sinclair, in private and public utterances, let it be clearly known that he was totally against the PNP's strong socialist sympathies.

Unlike 1976, Charles Sinclair didn't campaign for his party during the 1980 general elections — a clear indication that all was far from well between himself

and the party.

PNP lost that election, and it was clear to many observers that Charles Sinclair was overjoyed. Sinclair's disinterest in party politics grew more pronounced after that PNP defeat—leading to widespread speculation here that it was only a matter of time before he would relinquish membership in the PNP.

Though long in coming, that time came last Saturday afternoon.

Charles Sinclair said he would no longer tolerate the PNP's campaign to besmirch his solid character.

He called in reporters to his office atop his International Auto Sales vehicle-parts outlet on Barnett Street here, handed them copies of his resignation letter to PNP General Secretary Dr. Paul Robertson, and calmly wrote the final chapter in a long, sometimes successful, often bitter, episode of his association with the People's National Party.

Man-in-the-street reaction here to Charles Sinclair's stunning step-down varies only slightly—with the majority of some persons interviewed clearly siding with his decision after much thought. He knows what he is doing!

Reaction from the political arena here is predictably split right down the middle: Sinclair's former PNP comrades (some of them, anyway) are visibly annoyed. Others, however, welcome Sinclair's departure from the PNP, linking him in more recent years to an albatross around the PNP's over-burdened neck.

But in the JLP camp there is little dissent, Sinclair's dramatic resignation is being welcomed with open arms.

Charles Sinclair, meanwhile, is saying nothing to lift the veil of surmise that shrouds his political future. But observers here are predicting openly that it is a matter of time before Sinclair joins ranks fully with the Jamaica Labour Party.

'New Party' Rumor

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Jan 84 p 3

[From anonymous column "Listening Post," signed "The Listener"]

[Text] I hear that already there is talk that the quality of the eight independent Opposition Senators is such that if the political bug bites them, they could form themselves into a Jamaica Independents Party - J.I.P. And they could be joined by some of those dropped Ministers of State and Parliamentary Secretaries on the JLP side who resent their dropping!

Criticism of Manley

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Jan 84 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

It was to be expected that the President of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley, would be upset by the fact that there were eight Jamaicans of national stature who had accepted the invitation of the Prime Minister, Mr. Seaga, to form the Opposition group in the Senate. It was expected also that any of them being members of the PNP would be frowned upon by Mr. Manley. For he had warned in a statement that any member of the PNP who accepted appointment to the Senate in the circumstances of the December 15 elections, would be betraying his party.

It followed therefore that Mr. Courtney Fletcher, President of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, by accepting appointment, left himself open to be expelled from the People's National Party, even though he is a life member.

The same applied to Mr. Charles Sinclair, former PNP Mayor of Montego Bay, and former PNP Senator who was President of the Senate 1976-1980. In the event, Mr. Sinclair has now resigned from the PNP, and Mr. Fletcher has given a lesson in statesmanship to his erstwhile PNP colleagues by stating that "despite a PNP boycott of the General Election, the country's business must go on until another election is held."

But Mr. Manley's statement went beyond expected annoyance, and may well have been politically unwise and unfortunate in its timing.

It appears that Mr. Manley has unwittingly underlined the independent nature of all 8 persons appointed to the Senate on the Opposition side, when he said that none of them had been actively associated with the PNP in the last three years, which was precisely the recipe which the Prime Minister said he would be using in recommending the eight to the Governor General for appointment.

The fact that Mr. Manley did not refer to Prof. Errol Miller, who was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education during the

PNP regime, to Miss Barbara Blake, who has openly admitted her addiction to socialism in the past, to Dr. Lloyd Barnett, the well-known former chairman of the Jamaica Council of Human Rights and one of Jamaica's leading Constitutional lawyers, suggests that Mr. Manley could find nothing derogatory about them. He reserved his ire and contumely for Messrs. Charles Sinclair and Courtney Fletcher, the Rev. Sam Reid, Dr. Keith Worrell and Mr. Emile George.

The Rev. Sam Reid, whom Mr. Manley has described as an independent when appointed on the PNP side in 1972, has suddenly become an apologist for the JLP. Anyone reading the Rev. Sam Reid's articles over the years could not possibly agree with Mr. Manley's judgement. He has been a most objective writer and, as President of the Jamaica Council of Churches, he discharged his obligations with fairness and impartiality and helped to restore to that organisation some of its lost lustre.

Dr. Keith Worrell has sought to educate the public in economics, and has never appeared to us to be partisan.

The attack on Dr. Reid and on Dr. Keith Worrell was churlish, as was that on Mr. Emile George. To declare that Mr. George is anti-worker, because of his outstanding track record as an attorney for employers in industrial relations disputes before tribunals, is to suggest that a successful advocate for trade unions in industrial disputes is by definition anti-management.

It would seem to us that Mr. Manley's anger, while understandable, should not have been allowed by him to dwarf the only valid point of criticism, to which we ourselves had referred, to wit, that there is no one in the eight who can be said to represent the trade unions. Regrettably, this anger has made his statement lacking in taste, balance and sound judgement. He might do well to heed the wise words of Mr. Fletcher.

Endorsement of Fletcher

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 84 p 14

[Text]

Unanimous endorsement of the appointment to the Senate of Mr. Courtney Fletcher, President of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, was given by the JAS Board of Management at its first monthly meeting, held at its headquarters at South Parade in Kingston, on Wednesday. The endorsement came during the first half of the Board's meeting, in which it constituted itself into the Organising Committee, deliberating in closed session.

It was learned later that, in expressing its full support, the meeting did so on several grounds:

First, was that the situation in Agriculture at the present time was exceptional, rendering it necessary now more than ever for the problems and the needs of Agriculture to be brought forcefully to public notice so that the need for remedial action might be recognized;

Second, it was generally agreed that in view of the terms of the appointment to the Senate where the JAS President would have the right to speak freely and openly on what he considered to be the problems in agriculture, regardless of what the Government's official stance might be, it was of special advantage as a means of bringing these problems to the fore.

Responding to the Board's endorsement of the appointment, Mr. Fletcher reportedly told members that he thought the People's National Party had "over-reacted", when it issued the statement that it did. He said he "did not see how he could be expelled as a life member for if you are nominated for life, you are nominated for life".

However, the JAS President added, he did not wish to deal with that point at the time he spoke, excepting to say that he had accepted the appointment because he felt it was the only way to ensure adequate representation of the farmers in the Senate.

When the Board met later in public session, Mr. Fletcher said he was "very grateful" for the support members had given, for the attitude they had taken and for the goodwill and understanding they had shown of the reasons for, and the acceptance of, his appointment to the Senate. He knew he could rely on their

fullest support and co-operation in the months ahead of him in carrying out his functions as a Member of the Senate.

"I shall endeavour to give to the farming community the fullest representation of their interest and their views to the best of my ability", he said.

Giving a further reason influencing his acceptance of the appointment, the JAS President said: "Dark clouds of economic crisis hang heavily, with our national debt consuming more than 50% of our foreign exchange earnings"

There was a bauxite recession, trouble in sugar and bananas, while imported inputs were increasing in price. The country was finding it difficult to pay its oil bill and there was a growing balance of payments deficit. Added to this was the recent increase in the cost of fuel and the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, said Mr. Fletcher, who went on to state:

"I believe that our problem today has passed the stage where it can be regarded as a political one. The problem is an economic problem, and we have got to face that reality".

He said that grim as the situation was, "I must not forget to remind my colleagues that it could get worse; and it will get worse if we as people all, apart from the Government's efforts, do not do something for ourselves... We must remember that crisis is a danger; but for those who have courage, it is also an opportunity.

"Our aim as farm leaders must be to convert this crisis into an opportunity for advancing the growth and development of our country... I would beg us to understand the situation as leaders of the farming community, to tell our people what is upon us, and to teach them that unless we are united as a people to try to overcome our difficulties, we will only go from bad to worse.

"I ask that we face the crisis with unbounded faith and indomitable courage, for unless we do so, we will not be able to turn the crisis around." Among those members voicing support for Mr. Fletcher's appointment to the Senate at the Board meeting were Messrs R.J. Uter, Direct Members' Representative, of Manchester; Noel F. Walker, of St. Mary; Rev. U.C. Wolfe; Messrs. Ivan Tomlinson and Wesley Shirley; and Mrs. Magdalen Allen, Direct Members' Representative, of St. Elizabeth.

LEADERS DIFFER ON ECONOMY: PROSPECTS, DEVELOPMENTS NOTED

Carl Stone Analysis

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Jan 84 p 6

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text]

ANYONE who was in any doubt as to what 1984 had in store had those doubts removed with the drastic increases in basic goods prices already announced or shortly to be made public. We are in for a rough beginning to the next year.

The JLP's proud boast about making life easier for the consumer must now be believed by less than 10% of the population as living standards are being savaged by these price increases.

The JLP claim was true in 1981 and 1982 as consumer supplies increased and JLP abundance replaced PNP shortages. The JLP was able to borrow more money and to get more U.S. aid and overseas credit. That fact alone increased consumer supplies and helped to stabilise prices. But things took a turn for the worse in 1983 and 1984 is beginning with mountains of distress and hardships.

In the long run the laws of economics catch up with everyone even if some of us like to pretend that economic policy is all a matter of ideology.

Manley spent freely to keep the economy buoyant but sooner or later we had to adjust our living standards to what we were eating from production. In the long run the big spending did not help.

Like a thief

Seaga borrowed freely to a level that enabled the country to live through a

mirage of consumerism, enabling the country to consume beyond its means and encouraging some to believe that this was a sign of economic recovery.

But as with Manley, the laws of economics have caught up with Seaga. He now has to preside over a level of harsh and austere price increases that have come upon us like a thief on last Friday night.

At Liguanea Tuesday morning, a man I know to be a JLP supporter was abusing the Prime Minister and calling him names. The only of those names that is printable was the constantly repeated claim that "ee man wicked sah". Nowhere along the way have those responsible for managing the economy explained adequately to this JLP supporter why the gas price had to go up and by so much. He might still feel that the Prime Minister is a wicker man after he has had several rational explanations. But in the absence of such explanations who can blame him for reacting the way he did.

The reality is that if our economy is not earning enough foreign exchange we have to ration what we import. We can do it either by limiting the quantities we import or by devaluing the currency which is a way of rationing imported products by increasing their price to local buyers.

The present devaluation is a reflection of the country's harsh economic

reality of inadequate foreign exchange earnings. The hardships on the people are going to be immense. Some are expecting riots in the streets and road blocks that will bring the country to a standstill.

Memories understandably go back to January, 1979 when in the face of a much milder gas price increase the country was brought to a standstill by road blocks which were started by the JLP's National Patriotic Movement but were taken over by the people and turned into a massive show of contempt for Manley and the PNP government.

The PNP would perhaps like to repeat that scenario now that the boot is on the other foot. The road blocks have started but they will not be able to generate the spontaneous rage that emerged in 1979.

Too many people have turned off politicians and politics. The memories of hardship under the PNP are still too recent. The PNP's majority standing will increase even beyond the figures given in our December poll (that so upset many JLP supporters). But the people do not believe sufficiently in any political alternative right now to do what they did in January, 1979.

Where the political heat is going to be felt is on the trade union front where workers will be trying to recover ground lost in these drastic price increases in basic goods that will affect everyone's purchasing power, whether directly or indirectly.

In the final analysis, there are no political solutions to our predicament. Unless we begin to earn substantially more hard currency than we are at the moment our living standards will continue to slide and our politicians will be called wicked although they have little choice but administer this bitter medicine.

What is increasingly a source of demoralisation is the growing feeling the man in the street has that the economy is going nowhere in spite of the fancy scenarios painted by our political leaders on how recovery is just 'round the corner.

Very patient

The people have been very patient up to now but they are beginning to run out of that precious political commodity that has guaranteed us stability in circumstances in which other countries have been ripped apart by riots, military coups, political instability and breakdown of institutions.

A little more communication from our leaders and a little more guts in facing the people and letting them know the full would help considerably.

Talk can give a government more time to do its work but it is action that ultimately matters. We hope that during the course of the year some positive things will begin to happen to our economy so that a year from now the people's burdens can be significantly reduced.

Seaga New Year's Message

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Text] A "continuing measure of hardship" has been predicted by Prime Minister Edward Seaga in his New Year's message to the nation in which he reviewed "negatives" and "positives" at the end of the 21st year of independence.

Mr. Seaga said:

"1983 was the 21st anniversary of Independent Jamaica. That milestone alone would have sufficed to ensure that 1983 would be acclaimed as one of the most historic years in modern Jamaica.

But as the final six months of the year unfolded, more dramatic events emerged, indelibly imprinting the deep significance of 1983 on the calendar of our modern history.

The events of Jamaica 21 were a splendid showcase of our artistic achievements over the past 21 years through which we looked into the past as well as peeped into the future from the contrepont perspective of a nation emerging from youth to adulthood.

As we reviewed our own emergence in an orderly way, one of our sister countries of the Caribbean broke down in violent disorder under the collapsing weight of brutal events, stunning discoveries of weapons and plots, and the near enslavement of a whole nation under the stranglehold of international Communism.

Our military forces were called upon to play a decisive role in the successful military rescue operation to free Grenada and in maintaining peace to enable that little nation to rebuild and restore its democracy.

We all felt a sense of deep pride that we played our part, without hesitation, in wiping out the alien beast which had emerged in our midst and which was building strength and gaining skills with which to wipe us out when the right time came.

The decision to confront the communist beast in Grenada and destroy it will be recorded in time as one of the most historic events of the modern Caribbean, and I am proud that we were a part of it.

Then came the General Elections of December 15, a creature of circumstances for which no one had planned. It was for the large part uncontested, whether from pique or principle it hardly mattered because in the final analysis what was contended was wrong: that it is an Opposition and not a Government which must decide the timing for elections, a position no Government could ever accept.

The decision of the major Opposition party to abstain from the contest, created a Parliament of one party holding all seats in the House of Representatives, another historical feature of 1983.

As you are aware, while we do not relish having only one party in the House, the country will not suffer from inadequate opportunity to express criticism or commentary on Government policies and programmes. I have already announced that we intend to open Parliament to all those who wish to contribute in debate.

Undoubtedly, in so doing, we will be offering the country more democracy than it has ever experienced before, and we have already made good on the first of the three legs on which this New Parliamentary Order will rest, by nominating the highest calibre Senate the country has known since Independence, inclusive of 8 Independents of national stature, who will bring a still greater range of experience and expertise to the Opposition benches than ever before in our years of Independence.

Not all the drama of 1983 was in pageantry or politics. Much was in economics. The year saw the continuation of the painful adjustment of our economy to both the international pressures of the worst recession of our lifetime and the internal pressures of a collapsing system bequeathed to us by eight years of economic recklessness and political adventure.

As our earnings from bauxite fell dramatically we suffered, in consequence, a shortfall of foreign exchange earned from bauxite.

exports. As is the case when any commodity is in short supply, prices go up and the value of our dollar went down.

The devaluation which came near the end of the year, was after months of rising prices had already worked their way into the system setting a new rate for the Jamaican dollar. With the exception of gasoline and other fuels and electricity, the major blows had already passed as practically everything imported into the country was already at the new rate of exchange of the Jamaican Dollar, and even higher rates.

The new price levels for fuel announced yesterday, and that of electricity rates to come, will have their impact in 1984 and when they have spent their force, it is expected that we will return to greater stability in prices and eventually by 1985 back to the single digit rates of inflation we achieved so dramatically in 1981 and 1982.

1984 will also see the impact of the other side of the coin, the implementation of the benefits of the devaluation; the improved earnings for farmers of export crops (sugar, bananas, coffee, cocoa, pimento); in the tourism sector (hotels — both operators and workers, car rental agencies, villas, In-Bond shops); in mining; and in the more advantageous position for Jamaican manufactured goods in our own marketplace.

All of these sectors will experience improved earnings in 1984 adding greater incentive for production.

So too will the greatly reduced bureaucracy of imports as quotas and licences will no longer be necessary for imports of raw materials, capital goods and essential consumer goods, with few exceptions.

From the review of the economy just completed by the National Planning Agency, 1983 turned out to be much better than expected given the storm and the battering we experienced. In fact, Jamaica was one of the few countries in this hemisphere that showed positive growth in 1983. We weathered the storm; we did not sink, as many expected.

The storm is not yet over. There are still more adjustments to come in 1984 before the pressure will ease, but at least we can see some sunshine appearing as the demand for bauxite and alumina begins to pick up again, slowly but surely. This has been the only consistently weak sector in our economy since 1981, and because of its weight, it has dragged the rest of the economy down with it over the past two years.

We must not falter in completing the adjustments necessary to completely set our house in order, restructuring all the weakened areas from the battering of the 1970's and making the structure strong again, able to stand on its own.

This will entail a continuing measure of hardship, just as all work entails sweat and discomfort, but after that comes the finished structure able to offer shelter and security for the future.

It is that future for which we work as, bit by bit, we undo the mistakes of the past and resist the pressures of the present.

If in these things we succeed, 1984 could be the year in which we would have succeeded in putting the worst of the severe adjustments behind us, breaking the back of the overburden of both internal and external pressures which we have had to bear at one time and which we have done without collapse.

If we fail in 1984 to break the back of the adjustments necessary to restore economic stability and strength then we will prolong the period of adjustment, sapping the energies and morale of the country in the process.

For this reason we must bear the pressure a little longer: tightening Government expenditure, moderating wage demand, keeping a close watch on price movements, and controlling our appetites for unessential expenditure.

Once these "negatives" are under firm control, the continued buoyancy of the "positives" — the expansion of tourism, construction, manufacturing, the new buoyancy in Agriculture from AGRO 21, the expected upturn from Bauxite and Alumina and the continuing surge of new investments will provide the strength for the process of recovery to continue to completion.

In these areas of growth and new investment we can point to our record of achievement with pride as being one of the few countries in the world to have shown an unbroken period of growth over the years and a continuous flow of new investment despite the ravages of the world recession.

We will need much moral support and patriotic fervour to continue this struggle to adjust and show growth, an equation few countries have achieved.

We will need to summon patriotic fervour and moral commitment which will transmit to the nation an imperative to break the back of the struggle of adjustment by biting the bullet once and for all.

In doing so, as we have done in so many instances — the rescue of Grenada, combating hard drugs, imposing greater discipline, taking firm steps to control crime, to restructure Parliament to preserve democracy, and to deal with economic pressures in the course of adjustment — we will misjudge some times, fall short at other times, but always we will endeavour to do what must be done to weed out the indisciplined forces which break up our society, to combat the greedy forces which plunder our society, and to urge the constructive forces which build our society to be vocal and strong so that together we chart the course of recovery with force and direction.

There is a quotation from Theodore Roosevelt which more than any other befits the occasion today, as we press our cause and pursue our mission relentlessly, and I thought that I would like to read it to you in closing this New Year's address to the nation. I quote:

"It is not the critic who counts. Nor the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the Arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

May I wish you and all your families a happy New Year from myself and my family, and the Government of our country. May God be our ever present guide during the year."

Manley on 'Year of Trauma'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Text]

PNP Leader Mr. Michael Manley has described 1983 as "a year of trauma" which is only a prelude to "the critical and grave economic problems" facing the nation in the new year.

In his New Year message Mr. Manley said:

"The New Year begins against a backdrop of the most traumatic twelve months which Jamaica has experienced since the nation gained its independence 21 years ago.

It was a year when unfulfilled promises and baseless predictions created a tangle of confusion in our entire economic system. For the first time in our history a Budget passed by Parliament became a fiction of statistics within weeks, based on numbers which proved to be delusions.

It was a year, too, which ended with a so-called election — a political farce, which has made a mockery of the democratic institutions we have built brick by brick, decade by decade.

"In 1983, the facade of financial management was exposed when the Government failed two successive tests by the International Monetary Fund; when the value of the Jamaican Dollar plummeted to a rate below our wildest imagination; when prices rose to levels beyond the reach of the wage-earning public; when the Government's New Year's gift has been the increase of gasoline by three dollars per gallon; when businesses closed or shut down major lines of production — examples of which were Bata, the Jamaica Omnibus Service and the sugar factories which together made thousands of workers unemployed within a few short weeks.

All this will, I hope, be a sobering thought to those Jamaicans who have been spared this trauma at this time.

These tragic events which made 1983 a year of trauma are merely a prelude to the critical and grave economic problems which face us in the New Year. We have already warned about the consequences of increases in the cost of electricity, transportation, basic food, drugs, school books and other essential items.

Then there is real tragedy for Jamaica in 1984 when we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our first General Elections based on the fundamental principles of universal adult suffrage. The eve of this celebration was marked by the second major disfranchisement of thousands of our young people by the Jamaica Labour Party, depriving them of one of their major human rights — their responsibility to elect the Government of their choice.

For 1984, the country must be alert to resist all forms of undue pressure and all efforts to subvert the legal rights of each citizen. We must be vigilant to counter any manifestation of tyranny or repression. We must be on guard for any bogus "plots" which could be used as an excuse for fascist oppression.

I wish to assure the people of Jamaica, that the People's National Party which now enjoys the support of 55% of those entitled to vote, has not, and will not abdicate its political responsibility to ensure that the rights and freedoms of all our people are enjoyed and respected. We will be implementing programmes to ensure that those who may seek to employ reprehensible manoeuvres to maintain power at the cost of these democratic ideals must heed the demands and respect the rights of the people.

We will be insisting that the programme for electoral reform be put in place, and quickly. Integrity in public life must be restored by the calling of real elections based on an up-to-date voters' list and the use of identification cards with photographs to prevent voter impersonation. Nothing less can be satisfactory.

The mandate sought by the Jamaica Labour Party on December 15 was denied them by an overwhelming majority of our people. Jamaica cannot afford the crisis of uncertainty which has been created by the callous act of betrayal imposed on the people by those who have shown they have no moral obligation to, or understanding of honour, justice, or even basic decency.

Despite these enormous problems, we must be resolute and determined as a people, confident that we will have the strength and faith to overcome the current obstacle in God's good time."

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Text]

The National Planning Agency has published for the third successive year, a mid-year edition of the Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica in which it has indicated that the economy is likely to register approximately 1.7 per cent growth in Gross Domestic Product for 1983.

The Survey focuses its analysis of the economy on the actual performance over the first six months of the year and has incorporated projections in respect of several key factors for the calendar year 1983, in general, and the fiscal year where applicable. The mid-1982 edition covered the first nine months of the year, an NPA release stated.

The survey holds that 1983 is expected to be a better year in many respects than 1982 and that there has been positive growth in all the non-service sectors apart from Mining, which is projected to show a "bottoming out of the significant decline" recorded in 1981/82.

The Tourism and Agriculture sectors have been

quite strong with Manufacturing and Construction experiencing positive growth for the third consecutive year.

Gross fixed capital formation is expected to grow by 15.3 per cent to just over \$1.3 billion and total investment by 19.6 per cent to just under \$1.4 billion. Imports of capital goods for the first half of the year increased by 4 per cent over the corresponding period of 1982 while the volume of sales of locally produced cement and steel by 29 and 15 per cent respectively. There is a projection that there will be a fall in real consumption under the impact of fiscal and monetary measures aimed at containing domestic consumption.

The Survey states that, "the binding constraint imposed on the economy by the scarcity of foreign exchange was even more severe during 1983 as the international recession contributed to stagnation in bauxite and alumina exports following a US\$246 million decline in these exports 1982, while the

obligation to meet debt repayments continued to pre-empt a significant share of available foreign exchange. The stringency of the foreign exchange situation was further exacerbated by the fact that there were net capital outflows and at mid-year these stood at US\$136.6 million."

Inflation rate rose to within double digits for the first time since 1980 as the prices of several imported items increased sharply under the impact of the parallel market rate of exchange, the level of

which was directly influenced by the foreign exchange shortage, the release said.

Under social indicators, improvements were noted in social security, crime control and certain areas of the health service but there was an increase in the incidence of infectious diseases, including gastroenteritis and opthalmia neonatorum (an eye infection acquired by the infant during childbirth).

Among the positive indicators were the reduction in the reported incidence of certain crimes of violence; an improvement in the industrial relations climate reflected in a

40 per cent decrease in the number of strikes and increased benefits for persons under the government's social security programmes. Contributions to the National Insurance Scheme increased by \$1.6 million and benefit payments by more than 60 per cent.

There was improved coverage in certain health services, notably Primary Health Care. The findings of an immunization survey indicated that there were increased coverage levels for all vaccines. A number of new health centres were brought into service while existing ones were upgraded, the release said.

PNP on 'Further' Devaluation

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 84 p 15

[Text]

The People's National Party said yesterday that the adjustment of the exchange rate for the Jamaican dollar authorised by the Minister of Finance means that the dollar has been further devalued.

The adjustment in the exchange rate followed an order signed by the Minister of Finance setting a

new median for the rate; commercial banks yesterday were buying and selling Jamaican currency at the rate J\$3.40 to US \$1.00. When the devaluation was announced on November 23 a median of \$3.15 was set with a band of 30 cents — 15 cents either way.

A statement issued by Party Chairman, Mr. P.J. Patterson, said: "While in theory there remains a spread of 15 cents either way, the harsh economic reality is that the effective bank rate of \$3.40 Jamai-

can to \$1.00 U.S. will represent but a temporary peg for further devaluation.

"The order made by the Minister of Finance means that our dollar has been further devalued. The legal devaluation is 10 cents, but in fact within a few days there has been an actual drop of some 25 cents."

Mr. Patterson said the need to change the rate so quickly was proof of the rapid rate at which the economy was continuing to decline, reflecting "the

disastrous consequences of the Government's economic policies; mounting loss of confidence in those policies and the absence of any form of economic management."

Mr. Patterson said: "There is absolutely no confidence in the capacity of the Government to maintain the new rate. The Executive of the People's National Party is constrained to enquire whether any further devaluations are likely to occur in advance of IMF Agreement still being negotiated, or will follow as a consequence. The nation is entitled to clear answers now."

"As a result of the new parity order, previous calculations for price increases are already out of joint. Prices for raw materials, basic foods, drugs, essential imported supplies and air fares will continue to rise for consumers already reeling from the shattering blows delivered in the costs of gasoline and electricity rates," the P.N.P. chairman said.

Workers Bank Report

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Jan 84 p 15

[Text] The Workers Savings and Loan Bank and its subsidiary, the Workers Bank Trust Co. Ltd., have "just concluded the most successful year in their history", earning a \$2.4 million profit for 1983 which exceeds 1982 profits by 286 per cent.

But this success has not impressed many shareholders who have received no returns on their investments since 1973 and have just learned that the company will be paying no dividends for 1983.

Mr. E. Lloyd Taylor, Chairman of the Company, told shareholders attending the Workers Bank 9th Annual General Meeting in the Bank of Jamaica auditorium on Friday that the Bank and its subsidiary, earned \$2.4 million profit in 1983.

Elaborating about the Bank's 1983 performance, he reported, "revenue increased by 55.8 per cent or \$15.2 million from \$27.2 mil to \$42.4 million while expenses including provisions increased by 50.19 per cent or \$13.3 million from \$26.5 million to \$39.8 million resulting in a profit after tax, for the Bank together with its subsidiary, the Trust Company of \$2.4 million."

More than half of this year's profit, \$1.3 million, has been transferred to the reserve fund. Mr. Taylor said that the remaining "\$1.1 million as well as a transfer of \$.4 million from capital reserve, representing gains realized through depreciation charges earned against income, would be credited to the Profit and Loss Account thereby reducing the accumulated deficit from \$8.0 million as at September 30, 1982 to \$6.5 million as at September 30, 1983."

While several people congratulated the Bank for having attained a record profit, most of the shareholders who spoke were very disappointed that a dividend had not been paid and declined to accept the Chairman's explanation that the bank had to use its profit to build reserves and reduce its longstanding deficit.

A typical complaint was voiced by Victor Plummer, who declared, "If I put my money under a rockstone and thunder roll I have to look under the rocks to see if my money di deh."

Mr. Herdley Nelson of the Alpart employees cooperative moved a resolution on behalf of the shareholders, asking the Company to pay a \$500,000 dividend.

However, Mr. Taylor adhered to the company position that dividends will not be paid before 1985.

He said that the company had resolved to clear the deficit, largely due to "bad debts" uncollected loans which had developed from 1973 to 1982 and build up its capital reserve fund before paying dividends.

CSO: 3298/365

TRADE ISSUES DRAW ATTENTION OF MANUFACTURERS, EXPORTERS

Call for Imports Policy

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Jan 84 p 2

[Text]

A call on the Government to issue its new import policy since most licences expired on December 31, last, was made yesterday.

A statement issued by JMA President, R. Anthony Williams, referred to Ministry Paper No. 43, dated November 23, 1983 which indicated that a major step will be taken by dismantling the existing quota and licensing system for all imports with the exception of items which are currently on the Restricted List and a range of non-essentials and low-priority goods.

The Association, he said, interpreted this to be an acceleration of the Government's deregulation programme and hope that a new tariff regime was being

implemented immediately.

This regime would facilitate the imposition of higher duties on imported non-CARICOM finished goods which have been deregulated. The regime would however, provide lower duties, or no duties at all, on locally-produced goods based on the extent of local content in the finished products.

Note was taken of the fact that during the past few days dramatic and speedy increases have taken place with petroleum products and foreign exchange rates.

"The irony is that the wherewithal through an import policy which would ensure production to pay for those increases has not been implemented with similar speed," the J.M.A. statement said.

Shearer on Exports

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 84 pp 1, 15

[Text] Jamaican exporters, while facing a year that will "not be easy" for the productive sector, are expected to improve their export, research and marketing abilities, make use of opportunities under the Caribbean Basin Initiative and to help fill orders of \$160-million in prospective exports in certain categories of products recently announced by Deputy Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer.

In stating these prospectives, however, the President of the Jamaica Exporters Association, Mr. Geoffrey Messado, has called on the Government to urgently clarify its import policy, to reconsider its specifications on the surrendering of all foreign-exchange earnings to the Bank of Jamaica, and to "move all trade barriers in regional trade".

Mr. Messado, who was speaking at the luncheon meeting of the Lions Club of Kingston on Wednesday, said the JEA looks forward to "a very eventful and

productive 1984 provided the basic infrastructure is put in place to properly implement the Government's economic policies as set out in Ministry Paper 43 of November 23, 1983".

Mr. Messado said that this year will not be an easy one for the productive sector "as the kind of cost increases we have been experiencing since the November devaluation must impact on our ability to finance the additional working capital costs as well as the reduced purchasing power of the local markets." In the first few months of the year there will be "a lot of idel capacity and lost exports," Mr. Messado said.

Stating that greater involvement in exports is the only way for individuals and ultimately the country to avoid "sinking deeper and deeper into a mire of hopelessness," Mr. Messado called for support of exporters by Government and its department and agencies and full cooperation of every one if the plans for increased exports are not to be "frustrated".

The JEA President said that the association has recognised the "stringency of the economic situation that prevails" and is therefore not expecting Government to now provide the long sought-after increased incentives which the JEA has called for to put local exporters on an equal footing with exporters in other developing countries which have achieved notable export successes. However, he said, the JEA is asking that "measures when announced must be implemented as quickly and as efficiently as possible".

With respect to delays between announcements and implementation, he said that certain measures announced in November last year are in need of clarification. He mentioned specifically the announced the dismantling of the quota and licensing system for all imports except those on the restricted list and a number of non-essentials and low priority goods. Mr. Messado said, "This list was to have been prepared by the end of December 1983. It is on the preparation of this list that the whole import policy for 1984 rests as without the list of items requiring licences no items can be imported for 1984, in fact, to my knowledge and the knowledge of people I have spoken with no licences have been granted for 1984, with the exception of a few items on lines of credit".

He called for a clarification of the 1984 import policy and stated that there will be "a lot of idle capacity and lost exports for the first few months of the year." He also called for a reconsideration of the stipulation that "proceeds of export sales are to be surrendered in its entirety to the Bank of Jamaica." If this stipulation is to be carried out, he said, exporters will have to "join the queue to obtain foreign exchange on the same basis as everyone else." The JEA President requested that exporters be allowed to retain a portion of their foreign exchange earnings to purchase imported inputs, as was the case before the November devaluation and the tabling of Ministry Paper No 43.

CARICOM he said is another problem area. He said all barriers, whether licences or quotas, to regional trading should be removed and Jamaican exporters should be allowed to quote their prices in terms of U.S. currency equivalents because of the "floating exchange rate of the Jamaican dollar."

Mr. Messado also announced the establishment of a Research and Marketing Department of the JEA, as of January 3. This department was established with the support of the USAID which provided \$30,000 for the first six months of operation. The new department aims at professional export marketing through a programme of identifying Jamaican products, developing marketing plans and establishing contact with various key persons and institutions in the export trade.

The JEA President told the members of the Lions Club and Lionesses present that "if we put our shoulders to the wheel the positives will outweigh the negatives" this year.

The luncheon was presided over by Mr. Karl James, President of the Lions Club of Kingston.

CSO: 3298/366

BRODERICK REVIEWS AGRICULTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1983

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Dec 83 pp 11, 12

[Text] THE YEAR NOW ENDING CAN BE REGARDED AS ONE WHICH CONSOLIDATED AND STRENGTHENED THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, and the outlook for 1984 is one of high optimism. Barring unforeseeable disasters the agricultural sector can look forward to continued growth and development.

"I have the utmost confidence that the farmers of Jamaica are now prepared, more than ever before, to work to ensure that the agricultural sector achieves its full potential and become once more the major contributor to the economic life of the country. And I give the firm assurance that all the agencies under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, will be fully harnessed and utilized to supplement and complement the work of the farmers."

These views were expressed by the Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, Minister of Agriculture yesterday in an exclusive interview with the FARMERS' WEEKLY, as he looked back on what had been accomplished in Jamaica's agricultural sector during 1983, and at the projections for 1984.

The following is the Minister's statement:

"For agriculture, the year 1983 can be described as a year of further consolidation and strengthening of the agricultural sector characterized by some significant achievements. Although many serious problems remain to be solved, 1983 saw a positive movement of the agricultural sector from a negative growth of 6.5% in 1982 to a positive growth of over 5%. The domestic sector is projected to record an 8% increase, and earnings from export agriculture--traditional as well as non-traditional--increased significantly; and the livestock and fisheries sectors managed to reverse the negative trend of the past three years and recorded a modest increase in 1983.

"Data for the complete year of 1983 is not available at this time, but statistics for the first half of the year and projections for the other half are very encouraging.

Domestic Sector

"Conservative estimates of food production project an 8% growth in 1983 compared with 1982. During the first half of 1983, production of domestic food crops increased by 12%. This is significant considering a fall by 13% in 1982. Substantial increases were recorded for vegetables, condiments, cereals, potatoes and yams. It is interesting to note that in spite of increases there were no gluts/surpluses, or marketing problems experienced by the farmers in Jamaica.

"This was achieved by an increasingly better organised and more improved marketing system, combined with export promotion of Winter vegetables and ethnic crops, and a programme of import rationalization. This programme has aimed at serving the interests of farmers and consumers by balancing the import levels with local production to meet the consumer demand.

"The livestock and fisheries sector is projected to record a modest increase of 3% in 1983. However, this is significant since this sector has been on the decline since 1980. During the first half of 1983, with the exception of pork, all other meats and eggs recorded a positive growth--poultry meat 7%, beef 10%, mutton 5, eggs 1%.

Export Sector

"The traditional export sector of sugar, banana, coffee, cocoa, citrus and pimento showed an overall increase of 18% in earnings, during the first half of 1983. Performance of these crops is as follows:

"--Sugar: Production for the 1982-83 crop totalled 196,923 tons compared with 199,011 tons the previous year--a fall of 1%. However, it took 11.61 tons of cane to make a ton of sugar as compared with 12.47 tons the previous year.

"It is admitted that there are still areas of inefficiencies within the industry and steps are being taken to bring production back into an economic cycle, to raise the throughput of some of the larger factories to more economic levels, and to improve the manning levels within the factories.

"Steps have also been taken to decentralize the management of the public sector factories and local boards have been named for each of the factories to monitor the day-to-day activities in the factory and field, in order to increase efficiency and improve financial accountability.

"--Bananas: Banana exports for the first 9 months are up, and projections at present indicate an increase of approximately 12-1/2% over last year's exports.

"--Development of the 2,050 acre project in St. Thomas under Eastern Banana Company is on target, and it is anticipated that next year the company should be reaping from over 200 acres and so contributing to the current target of 40,000 tons of export fruit next year.

"--Coffee: Production reflected a modest increase which might have been significantly larger but for the drought conditions in some production areas. The crop continues to be a good foreign exchange earner and export sales for the first 9 months brought in some US\$4.2m.

"The development programme in the Blue Mountains is on target with some 300 acres established in the first year.

"--Cocoa: Production continues to show dramatic increases. The 1982/83 Fall Crop alone (October 1982 - March 1983) yielded 172,168 boxes of wet cocoa which were more than the entire crop for 1981/82.

"The Spring Crop of an additional 105,112 boxes has made this year's crop the highest for the past 11 years. Much of this can be attributed to sound crop husbandry in conjunction with increased acreages and good weather conditions.

Non-Traditionals

"Exports of non-traditional crops such as vegetables, fruits, roots and tubers etc., maintained the growth rate by recording an increase of 13% during the period January-September 1983, compared with the same period in 1982.

"The quantity of exports reached to 20 million lbs. up to September 1983, and it is estimated that a total of 25 million lbs. will be exported by the end of the year.

"The value of exports reached to over J\$10 million in 1982-83 compared with under J\$2 million in 1977-78. This sector of export agriculture has shown tremendous growth over the past few years and has great potential for further expansion.

"During the year the structural adjustment of the sector continued and the agreed targets are being met.

Restructuring

"The restructuring of the sugar and banana industries is taking place. The structure of both industries have been agreed upon and the plans of operation along with financial programmes are currently being implemented.

"Steps have also been taken to improve the efficiency of the commodity Boards in order to increase the price incentive to the farmers, and the programme of deregulation is being implemented to allow private organisation participation in the export marketing of crops. In addition, the Ministry's nursery programmes have been divested to the commodity organisations and private groups.

"In the drive to combat praedial larceny, 77 wardens were trained and assigned to various high risk areas across the Island and already a number of cases are awaiting decisions in the courts.

12,000 Acres Allotted

"Under the Government's programme of transferring from a leasehold to a free hold system of land tenure, approximately 12,000 acres have been allotted to small farmers on a freehold basis and the agreed target under the structural adjustment programme for the sector is expected to be met by April 1984.

Incentives

"The programme of agricultural incentives was maintained and under the provisions for the duty-free importation of vehicles for agricultural use, the Ministry of Agriculture had approved some 1,558 vehicles for farmers during the first nine months of this year.

Development for Farmer Organisations

"During the year every effort was made to continue the development of the farmer organisations with the aim of 'putting farming into the hands of farmers.'

"--\$30,000 were granted to the Pimento Growers Association to develop their secretariat.

"--The nursery and Coffee Berry Borer Control programme has been transferred to the Coffee Industry Board.

"--The cocoa nursery programme has been transferred to the Cocoa Industry Board.

"--Both the JAS and the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association are being encouraged to develop their trading activities in order to provide better service to their members.

AGRO-21

"This major new thrust in agriculture was launched this year with the defined objectives of rapidly increasing agricultural output by using under-utilized and unutilized lands for commercial production. This is predicated upon the application of new technology and highly scientific methods and in many cases the introduction of new crops for new markets.

"Windfall profits from the devaluation exercise will be distributed to farmers in the various sectors affected.

"The year 1983 can therefore be regarded as a year of high profile agricultural activity. The sector still has problems and will have problems for some time to come.

"However, the outlook for 1984 is one of high optimism. Barring unforeseen disasters the sector can look forward to continued growth and development.

"The Ministry's emphasis in the coming year will be placed upon:

"1. Consolidating the gains which have already been made.

"2. Continuing and expanding the programmes which were implemented during 1983.

"3. Developing and implementing a planned policy for the livestock sector with a view to laying the foundation for self-sufficiency in dairy and meat products.

"4. Putting the sugar industry on a path to recovery and viability.

"5. Increasing the sectors' ability to be a net earner of foreign exchange through greater production and productivity in those crops with export potential and through the determination of a successful import substitution programme; and finally.

"6. Continuing on our course of doing whatever is possible to ensure a better and more secure life for the Jamaican farmers and indeed the entire farming community."

CSO: 3298/366

FLETCHER URGES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR SMALL FARMERS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Mr. Courtney Fletcher, president of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, declared upon Wednesday that while the society supported AGRO 21 and its plans for developing 200,000 acres of under-utilized land, "this does not solve the problem of the 150,000 small farmers".

Mr. Fletcher, who was speaking at the monthly meeting of the JAS Board of Management, called for the development of a "companion programme" to AGRO 21 to meet the needs of these small farmers.

"We cannot escape greater expenditure by Government on small farming; we have got to face the fact that it is more productive to spend on this sector. And so we of the JAS are calling on Government to put the 150,000 small farmers in a position where they can maximize their earnings from farming and derive a better standard of living out of agriculture."

He called for the organisation of small farmers into co-operatives, such as had been done in the coffee industry. "And", he added, "the JAS should be in a position where it can set up a network of co-operatives, such as exists in coffee".

However, said Mr. Fletcher, in order to do so, the society needed the kind of financial structure that would enable it to organise such groupings.

The JAS President then proceeded to set out a number of ways by which production may be maximized, the JAS President said the first objective should be to increase yields and second should be the maximization of under-utilized and unutilized land.

Mr. Fletcher said it should be borne in mind that small farmers had to live; they were the ones who bought the goods, and they were the ones who helped to keep the system going. "And with all that is going on in agriculture, unless we pay some attention to these 150,000 small farmers, we are not going to succeed."

In an indirect reference to his recent appointment to the Senate, Mr. Fletcher said that for these reasons, "the JAS has a big role to play--and I intend to represent these farmers in the Senate", he said, and went on to add: "The small farmers cannot go forward unless there is a method of organisation that is worked out to meet their needs."

BRODERICK ANNOUNCES DEPOSIT SAVINGS, OTHER FARM SCHEMES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Dec 83 p 6

[Text] THE PEOPLE'S CO-OPERATIVE BANKS MOVE into a further phase of development on January 18 next year, with the launching in Chapleton, Clarendon, of a deposit savings scheme for farmers.

This announcement by the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Percival Broderick, on Saturday, November 26 received loud applause by members of the Chapleton P.C. Bank, who met for their annual general meeting at the Chapleton All-Age School.

The farmers were even more delighted when the Minister announced that as of July 1 next year, there will be a one-hundred percent increase in the interest rate on savings under the old Farmers Savings Programme, moving the rate from 4-1/2 percent to nine percent.

Minister Broderick said the new interest rate has been set to encourage farmers to save more with the People's Co-operative Banks, so that the share capital figures can improve.

The Minister of Agriculture outlined a number of benefits being derived by farmers. He said:

--"We have as a matter of course allowed farmers who have land on the tax roll to the value of \$2,000 to be exempted from the paying of land tax.

--We have exempted farmers from paying any tax on their agricultural earnings.

--We are providing farmers with duty-free vehicles to enable them to move their produce, notwithstanding the fact that some people have abused it."

Dr. Broderick further announced that "the Ministry of Agriculture has set up a motor vehicle policy committee within his Ministry, to formulate a new policy in respect to how we can approve duty-free vehicles in the farming sector and which vehicles will qualify". And he said the findings of the committee would be known by the first week in January. minwage-123

CSO: 3298/366

BRODERICK ASSAILS CRIME, CORRUPTION IN SUGAR INDUSTRY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Dec 83 p 6

[Text] Following a condemnation of "the many levels" of corruption and criminal activities in the sugar industry, the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, has pledged to take strong measures to "clean up" the industry.

Dr. Broderick said that if the industry did not benefit from increased production in the 1983/84 crop, it would benefit from the savings which would be realised as a result of losses from criminal acts, and increased efficiency in management.

Dr. Broderick was addressing the annual general meeting of the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association at the George Liele Centre, at the East Queen Street Baptist Church complex on Tuesday, December 20. "What will be remarkable for the 1983/84 crop might not be the fact that we have dramatically increased production, but that we have dramatically decreased criminality," he declared to the prolonged applause of the cane farmers.

He outlined areas such as the transportation of cane, storage of sugar, weighing and shipping, as some areas affected by criminal activities. Dr. Broderick said that if the industry did not benefit this year by increased production, it would benefit from savings which would be realised as a result of, a reduction in losses from criminal acts, a reduction of losses by way of increased efficiency in management and a better supply of fresh clean cane from the farmers.

Dr. Broderick said that new Boards to manage the public sector factories would be announced this week and would become effective on January 2, 1984.

The new Boards will have the responsibility to manage at the factory level and will have representatives from the cane farmers, the Sugar Industry Research Institute (SIRI) and the Public Sector Enterprise Division of the Ministry of Finance.

Each Board will monitor factory operations, field operations and irrigation systems. There will also be Sub-Committees of these Boards dealing with financing and other areas.

Dr. Broderick said the Boards would not be political and would have people with specialized skills in all areas of the Industry.

--The recent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar will bring a windfall of \$53 million to the industry according to tr. Broderick. He gave the farmers what he termed a "responsible assurance that they would benefit from the windfall by way of a price increase".

An announcement of how the farmers are to benefit will come after consultations with all sectors of the industry, he said.

--Dr. Broderick also pointed out that discussions were in progress regarding the divestment of the management of three public sector factories, in order to bring about greater levels of efficiency to the industry.

--The Management of the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association (AIJCFA) presented the Minister with, a painting as a token of their appreciation of the Minister's efforts and support for the farmers in particular, and the industry generally.

CSO: 3298/367

FARMERS WELCOME NSC RESTRUCTURING OF SUGAR INDUSTRY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 84 p 14

[Text]

The chairman of the All Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association, Mr. T.G. Mignott, has said that the new Boards of Directors of the National Sugar Company factories have the full support and co-operation of cane farmers who welcome the restructuring of the sugar industry and the decentralisation of the NSC.

He was speaking at the public launching of the new boards of the NSC factories at the Pegasus Hotel on Wednesday and he said that the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Percival Broderick, had selected a fine set of men and women to serve on the boards, and that they would have the full support and co-operation of cane farmers in working towards making the sugar industry economically viable again.

Mr. Mignott said that the task before the boards of directors was a very formidable and mammoth one. He identified the twin problems of indiscipline and corruption, and said that corruption accounted for 50 per cent of what had happened to the National Sugar Company. Indiscipline in the industry was also a very serious problem.

But the farmers realise that to have efficient factories

there must be efficient farmers.

"Now that the industry is being given over to us. Now that something is being done to see that sufficient money is being pumped into the industry, we as farmers will play our part to see that you get an adequate supply of raw materials to help make the factories viable again," he said.

Mr. Mignott said that the Cane Farmers Association had established a production department to oversee the planting, reaping and supply of sugar cane as well as to ensure that an adequate supply of

fertilizer and transportation were available. In keeping with this, he said, the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company had appointed the Association distributor of fertilizer.

He said that the Association also had a commercial department which imported supplies for the farmers, and that the Association had established a group life insurance and pension scheme. He said that these things were done to make it worthwhile for farmers to stay in sugar cane production and so that they could be competitive with other agricultural sectors.

SUGAR CROP FOR 1984 OPENS WITH LOSS PROJECTED AT \$25 MILLION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 84 p 13

[Text]

The 1984 sugar crop starts this weekend against the background of expected loss for the 1983-84 crop estimated at \$52 million.

This was disclosed Wednesday at a meeting of the chairmen and Board members of the six factories owned by the National Sugar Company (NSC) at the Pegasus Hotel.

NSC managing director, Mr. Evon Brown, said that \$27 million of this amount will be for debt servicing and finance charges, while \$25 million will be for operational expenses. He said that the total losses for the operations of NSC factories for the 11-month period to August 1983 was \$63 million.

Frome Sugar Factory managed to start ahead of schedule, but the timetable for the other five factories is: Bernard Lodge on January 9; Monymusk on January 20; Duckenfield on

rick said, it will be entering the 1983-84 crop with losses of \$9.4 million on the books; while the loss position at Bernard Lodge will be \$446,000. Losses at Duckenfield are projected at \$4 million; Long Pond, \$3.3 million; Gray's Inn, \$4.3 million; and Holland Farms, \$2.5 million.

Commenting on the Monymusk losses, the Minister said it is interesting to note that line expenditures "are written a bit too simplistic to be convincing". He said that there were losses of \$4 million in the field but that "you have to have a sort of genius to create \$4 million of losses in the field".

"It has to be something that you have to be trained to do," he said, adding that these losses demonstrate the extent of what was called haemorrhaging in the industry.

January 26; Gray's Inn on January 30; and Long Pond on February 28.

The start of the Long Pond crop has been delayed to facilitate the installation of equipment aimed at increasing efficiency on the factory.

Giving a breakdown on the expected operational losses by NSC sugar estates for the 1983-84 crop, the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, said that Frome is expected to lose some \$240,000, which is not an amount that good management could not reduce.

"When you are within \$240,000, then you are certainly on the move towards recovery," he said; but he added that the Board will have to examine the areas of losses and seek to reduce them.

After interest and finance charges are removed from losses at Monymusk Sugar Factory, Dr. Brode-

AGRO-21 PROJECT PUTS \$9-MILLION PLANT IN ST ELIZABETH

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Dec 83 p 22

[Text] Construction of a \$9-million Aquaculture Plant on the BRUMDEC property in the Barton Isles area of St. Elizabeth under the AGRO-21 Programme is well under way, according to the Prime Minister, Mr. Seaga, the Chairman of the Agro-21 Committee. The Aquaculture Project, a joint venture between BRUMDEC and Jamaica Broilers Ltd., provides for the development of approximately 1,000 acres of aquaculture. The first phase of the project will develop 200 acres of ponds and hatchery facility in the first five years.

The project will cost approximately \$9 million over five years with some \$6 million being spent in the first three years for the development of 100 acres of grow-out ponds.

Productions targets for the project over the first five years will be as follows:

70,000lb of shrimp and 110,000 lb. of fish in the first year, 2.2 million

pounds of shrimp and 350,000 lb. of fish in the second year, 3.3 million lb. of shrimp and 523,000 lb. of fish in the third year, 4.4 million lb. of shrimp and 700,000 lb. of fish in the fourth and fifth years.

Total sales from the project over the five year period will be approximately J\$18 million with the foreign exchange earnings estimated at US\$3 million.

The Prime Minister said the project would be utilizing technology developed in Israel. Already, a Jamaican Marine Biologist has been trained in Israel and will be guided over the first 3 years of operation by Israeli experts who will transfer the technology to their Jamaican counterparts.

A company to implement the project, Aquaculture Jamaica Ltd., has been established.

All the brood ponds, nursery ponds and hatchery are nearing completion. Construction of 60 acres of grow-out ponds is now under way and will be completed before the end of this year.

Mr. Seaga said that production in the hatchery

GUN VIOLENCE BRINGS POLICE STATEMENT, SEAGA CONDEMNATION

Security Force Operations

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] OVER 150 PERSONS were detained in a joint military/police operation in sections of downtown and west Kingston and nearby southwest Saint Andrew up to yesterday afternoon, following an upsurge of gun violence since Sunday which has left at least eight persons, including a policeman, dead, and nine shot and wounded.

Police sources up to yesterday would not commit themselves as to what has caused the violence. Reports are that a JLP activist was shot dead, and another shot and wounded and this triggered it. Another report is that it was not a political feud but "personal".

Further reports are that the trouble started at a popular uptown Kingston dance spot where the political activist was involved in a fight, over the New Year weekend.

As a result, opponents from the other political side, knowing his movement sprayed his hang-out in west Kingston with gunfire, killing him. Police reports on the incidents were sketchy.

And, in the face of the mounting gun violence in these sections of the island the security forces took steps to stop it, and at press time a police spokesman said they had the situation under control.

A police release yesterday afternoon on Security Forces' operations in the troubled areas said:

"Arising out of the shooting incidents in Kingston on Tuesday in sections of Kingston, drastic measures have been instituted by the security forces since yesterday morning.

"Several raids are taking place, reinforced by cordons and searches in the areas, as a major offensive against gunmen. Joint police/military patrols have been stepped up in Central Kingston areas where the shooting started.

"Apart from Skateland in the Half Way Tree area which is being searched, the other areas being searched is southerly bounded by Heywood Street; easterly by Orange Street; westerly by West Street and to the north by Charles and North Street".

And, in the troubled area of the city, the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spaulding; the Minister of Health, Dr. Kenneth Baugh; the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Horace Chang; and the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joe Williams, visited the Kingston Public Hospital yesterday afternoon.

The officials' visit was to reassure the hospital staff and patients that there was increase security in the area, and there was now nothing to fear.

Mr. Spaulding said there would be tactical patrols, cordons and searches in the sensitive areas and special escorts would be provided for hospital staff leaving work in the late hours.

Statements issued by the Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, and by Mr. Spaulding condemned the shootings and gave the assurance of stepped-up security measures to curb the violence.

Seaga Statement

Kingston THE DAILY NEWS in English 5 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Text] Prime Minister The Right Honourable Edward Seaga issued a statement yesterday regarding the killing of Constable Albert Thompson and Miss Esme Roberts. The statement said:

"I condemn in the strongest terms the brutal killing of Constable Albert Thompson and a friend, Esme Roberts, who were riding a motorcycle along Charles Street early this morning.

"This is two blocks from shootings which occurred during the past two mornings wounding one person and killing two including a valuable member of my Constituency, Altimont McKoy, whose job was to assist vendors on Spanish Town Road to solve their problems of molestation.

"Constable Thompson was not on duty. He was taking Miss Roberts, who was pregnant, to her home when they were shot by gunmen at the intersection of Charles Street and Luke Lane.

"I have given instructions that no efforts are to be spared in dealing with the band of criminals known to operate in this location, and who have in the past plagued the area. Notable on Election Day, 1980, in the same area, over 2,000 rounds were fired at a school housing several polling stations where I was present.

"This same band is a constant source of robberies and molestation of business premises, country higglers and vendors on the Spanish Town Road and in the Market area of West Kingston.

"Killing a policeman who is not engaged in duty but in transporting a pregnant woman home is an act of bestiality and cowardice.

"The families of those slain can rest assured that a clean-up of that criminal den will be undertaken to find the killers.

"My deepest sympathies to the bereaved families of the victims."

CSO: 3298/367

BRIEFS

GEOGRAPHY JOURNAL--A new journal, "Caribbean Geography", was launched at the Third Annual Exhibition of New Jamaican Publications put on by the University Bookshop, Mona Campus, on Tuesday, December 20. "Caribbean Geography" is a bi-annual journal published by Longman Jamaica Limited and edited by Mr. Mike Morrissey, of the School of Education, and Dr. David Barker, of the Department of Geography, UWI. Professor Aubrey Phillips, of the School of Education, was guest speaker at the launching. In assessing the significance of the journal, Professor Phillips looked at the goals of the publication, which are: to provide a forum for the publication of new research work done on and in the Caribbean, and to disseminate to schools and colleges throughout the region the latest in Caribbean geographical scholarship. Describing as excellent the two issues of the journals already published, Professor Phillips praised the range of not only the contributed articles and reviews, but also of the editorial advisors who contributed to the standard of the journal. The next issue of "Caribbean Geography" is scheduled for publication in May 1984. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Jan 84 p 13]

CSO: 3298/367

SUBSIDY TO CENTER FOR THIRD WORLD STUDIES WITHDRAWN

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 370, 5 Dec 83 pp 22-24

[Article by Maria Esther Ibarra]

[Text] The platform for Luis Echeverria Alvarez' political nostalgia, the CEESTEM [Center for Third World Economic and Social Studies], has suffered a harsh blow from the government of Miguel de la Madrid. The SEP [Secretariat of Public Education] withdrew the subsidy that the institution has been receiving for 7 years.

Although Jose Lopez-Portillo tolerated it, Miguel de la Madrid preferred to strike a blow against Echeverria's political headquarters. Echeverria has tried to maintain his influence in national and international events through this intellectual and scientific center.

Unwilling to "retire to his house with the satisfaction of duty fulfilled and without nurturing illegitimate aspirations"--as De la Madrid recommended to former presidents--Echeverria stubbornly ignored the signs in spite of the clarity of the messages.

There is nothing harder than for Echeverria to accept retirement. His political activity as a former president has been characterized by scandal. For example, in the July 1982 elections, he insulted and tried to discredit Jesus Reyes Heróles, now secretary of public education, when De la Madrid was forming his cabinet.

Echeverria accused Reyes Heróles of being a traitor, liar, persecutor and alcoholic.

This was his peculiar way of influencing politics.

The conflict between Echeverria and Reyes Heróles goes way back. The son of the former president, Alvaro Echeverria Zuno, coordinator of the Rural Development Area of CEESTEM, assailed him:

"If the withdrawal of the subsidy (approximately 200 million) responds to pressures by reactionary and regressive groups or the tantrums and whims of the secretary of public education, we would have to face a serious problem.

The public administration would be collapsing since the president would be losing power."

He categorically warned: "Neither the pressures of the Mexican oligarchy, groups tied to U.S. imperialism nor the tantrums of a secretary of state will manage to close CEESTEM."

The economic support to CEESTEM was withdrawn but no explanation has been given yet. The government subtly let the news be announced by zealous columnists who examined the 1984 Federal Budget of Expenditures which does not include any allocation for the institution.

This provoked many conjectures and interpretations. They all agree on a political basis: Echeverria Alvarez' stubbornness in breaking the golden rule of silence for former presidents inside and outside the country.

Many believed in his influence, mainly in the Lopez-Portillo government. The latter had to explain: as president, "I cannot accept pressures. On matters under my jurisdiction, I alone have decided, decide and will decide."

In 1980 Gustavo Carvajal Moreno, then leader of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], had to tell Echeverria's followers: "Anyone who knocks on the doors of San Jeronimo burns his bridges and must go it alone."

During this administration, in addition to his attempt to discredit Reyes Heróles, Echeverria has been heard from again. In a radio interview in Madrid, Spain, on 25 October, he spoke of the events in Tlatelolco, the PRI, the "cover-up," his favorite topics. He stated, for example, that "the institutions can be managed conservatively, apathetically, traditionally, or they can be managed actively with a sense of hastening social changes or economic justice. That is the ideal of our country."

Echeverria acts as if he were campaigning. In Madrid he met with 36 important people from all sectors ranging from the king, the president and the mayor to the intellectuals. He established ties between CEESTEM and similar institutions.

On 3 November he spoke about imperialist pressures on the Third World, especially Mexico. He predicted: "I have the firm conviction that the only road for our peoples is the anti-imperialist union of Asia, Africa and Latin America, all the countries that have been colonies in the past." He added: "At this time when the government of Miguel de la Madrid is trying to make a good impression on the IMF, we must remember that Mexico has been at swords' point with the United States since 1948."

Also on 3 November he stated: "The country is divided; there are deep ideological differences and different interests."

On 14 November he accused those who revile populism of being "naive."

Secretary Francisco Labastida Ochoa of the SEMIP [Secretariat of Energy, Mines and Parastatal Industry] and Secretary Carlos Salinas de Gortari of the SPP

[Secretariat of Planning and Budget] refuted him. The first said: The economic reorganization program has been established "without concessions to power groups and avoiding easy recourse to populist demagoguery which, far from solving problems, aggravates them."

Salinas de Gortari was more categorical: "The revolution has known how to reject--although not always in time--the populism that leads to social frustration and political instability, precursors of repressive regimes or the loss of national sovereignty."

Both statements preceded the news of the withdrawal of the subsidy from CEESTEM. However, Alvaro Echeverria attributes the decision to the pressures and demands that the PAN [National Action Party] and the PDM [Mexican Democratic Party] made in the Chamber of Deputies. He said: "They have a completely regressive view of the future of the country."

"Isn't it extreme to think that pressure by those parties is enough for the government to decide to withdraw its economic support from CEESTEM?"

"We must start with a mere hypothesis because so far we have not had any official notification. It is true that the country is going through a very serious crisis. The country has generated a huge foreign debt because of all the looting by public officials in the last administration. The government of Miguel de la Madrid is forced to carry out the restrictive policy imposed by the IMF. Therefore, we see cuts on all sides, mainly in the rural sector. You can see idle tractors, unworked land and low productivity because it is not easy to get the money-making machine to work."

However, he recognizes that there are other hypotheses about the attacks on CEESTEM. He said that the center has been useful to the government in planning many programs. For example, "the SAM [Mexican Food Supply System] was born here." The center has notably contributed to profiles of Mexican foreign policy and provides studies and permanent advisers for different state secretariats.

"Why are they taking the subsidy away then?"

"I am concerned about the decision, especially when we are going through a bad time in foreign relations, when there are tremendous efforts by the Contadora Group to avoid war in Central America and precisely when Mexico has won the presidency of the Group of 77 through UN Ambassador Porfirio Munoz Ledo.

"In any case, it is a curious and contradictory decision. This leads me to make a hypothesis about the collapse of the public administration or think that President De la Madrid's advisers have a very reactionary view of the international situation or that there are public officials who want to hurt national policies."

He was reminded that the SEP on whom the federal financing of CEESTEM depends is headed precisely by the man whom his father openly insulted.

Alvaro Echeverria stirred in his seat. He said: "If the decision was made based on personal interests or by the whim of the secretary of public education, because of his tantrums, we have a worrisome fact: the president is losing power. In other words, this translates into a loss of power by the president; that is, the National Palace is being moved to a state secretariat."

However, "if it responds to the pressures of reactionary groups like the PAN and the PDM, we are facing another equally worrisome fact: the government is becoming rightist or neofascist."

As an academician at the center where he coordinates the Rural Development Area, Alvaro Echeverria said he did not know how the total budget of CEESTEM is made up and how much the government and the institutions that participate in its programs contribute.

Neither has it been explained why, after a year of government by Miguel de la Madrid, it was decided to withdraw "the important" economic transfer, 90 percent of which is allocated for wages and salaries of the educational and administrative personnel, from the center.

However, the reason is very simple. This year CEESTEM still received 194.2 million pesos because the 1983 Federal Budget of Expenditures fell to the Lopez-Portillo government.

According to Alvaro Echeverria, this economic reduction will not force CEESTEM to curtail activities, much less to close. "We will have to seek financial alternatives and, in fact, we have through agreements signed with institutions and governments of other countries."

"Comrade" Maria Esther--as Alvaro calls his mother--has not remained aloof from the former president's activities. She is not part of CEESTEM but directs the Lidice Cultural Foundation.

Alvaro Echeverria mentioned how Maria Esther's foundation started. "The Echeverria couple has always been concerned about rescuing Mexican popular art. With this idea they created the foundation which operates out of their house in San Jeronimo just a few meters from the center."

The Echeverria Zuno couple remodeled the garage and some chicken coops near their home to house the foundation there. It consists of a dance academy ("Las palomas de San Jeronimo"), a 45,000-volume library--including books and research--a gallery devoted to the work of the painter and friend of the family Ricardo Martinez and, as a "historic contribution," the Administration Room--of course, Echeverria's administration.

Doesn't the personality cult end this statesman's doubts about himself?

Alvaro Echeverria answered: "They have criticized Echeverria Alvarez of being narcissistic since he established the Administration Room. However, this is a significant contribution to the history of this country where there is no printed record of each administration."

Alvaro Echeverria did not hide his pride. He even predicted: "When Luis and comrade Maria Esther are old, they could convert the San Jeronimo house into a National Craft Museum. That is the plan."

His description of CEESTEM during a tour was equally emotional and vehement. "Each corner, each space, each meter is filled with popular art." He summarized: "It is a living museum."

Traditional materials of Mexican architecture--stone, wood, clay--were used in the construction. The main section houses the office, library, terminals for the information and computer centers, seven specific work program areas and a language laboratory. These areas are very flexible because of screens and movable walls.

The second section is a large informal room used for exhibits of activities of the center or events by different countries.

The circular auditorium is the third section. It "conveys the community and democratic spirit of the meetings at a real round table with spectators and participants occupying the same space," according to the description in the introductory pamphlet for CEESTEM. This area has the necessary installations for simultaneous interpretation and projection.

Elements and crafts from different regions of the country were used in the decor and furnishings. The furniture, vases, curtains, pitchers, suns and masks that adorn the different areas of the center come from Michoacan, Jalisco, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Mexico State. The majority of the furnishings is made with carved wood and varnished pine.

Geraniums, sloe fruit, azaleas, willows, roses, jacarandas, magnolias, bougainvillea and pear trees are some of the plants that adorn the gardens.

According to Echeverria Zuno, though, CEESTEM is not the land of plenty. "We are very cramped. The teaching room is very small and the computer and information centers operate under crowded conditions."

The presence of a group of soldiers who guard the entrance of the center was noted. "They say that CEESTEM is Echeverria's bunker but this security corps is one of Echeverria's prerogatives as a former president."

7717

CSO: 3248/310

BRIEFS

VELAZQUEZ: CTM RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT--Fidel Velazquez, leader of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], denied yesterday that relations between the labor movement and the government have been weakened by the economic crisis. He indicated that, on the contrary, they have been strengthened and are stable since they are governed by law. Also both parties hold positions of solidarity and understanding. In an interview, Velazquez indicated that the labor movement appreciates government efforts to keep the economic crisis from having serious consequences. He said that there are some bad situations but they are not in-depth problems. Concerning setting minimum wages for 1984, the CTM leader stated that the confederation will not agree to having the increase given in two parts. He said: "It is illegal to sell the work of the workers for vouchers." The CTM leader also denied that there was a confrontation between the labor movement and the Secretariat of Labor. However, he explained that it is true that the working class does not always agree with what is done in this area. [Text] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 6 Dec 83 p 5] 7717

TRAINING OF BILINGUAL TEACHERS URGED--Toluca, Mex., 27 Nov--Because of the large ethnic groups in Mexico State, a teacher training school where the graduates learn to teach bilingually is needed. The above plan was made by the state director of public education, Manuel Hinojosa Juarez. He reported that only the federal government provides bilingual education now; it is important to incorporate state educational authorities. There are only two ethnic groups in Mexico State which must be given priority attention: the Otomi and the Mazahua. They are mainly in the central part of the country. He felt the bilingual teacher training school was also important for state identity since the teachers should collaborate with the ethnic groups to preserve their traditions. He announced the existence of feasible projects for the establishment of this teacher training school and the necessary resources for implementation. Finally, he noted that education does not imply the elimination of knowledge but rather its complementation. Therefore, it is important to preserve two such important languages for the cultural development and history of Mexico State. [By Edmundo Cancino Gomez] [Text] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 28 Nov 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 4] 7717

NEW AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT--President De la Madrid appointed Jorge Palacio Trevino Mexican ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt. The Secretariat of Foreign Relations reported this yesterday in a bulletin. Palacios Trevino

was born in Burgos, Tamaulipas, on 7 November 1931. He has a law degree and has taken the courses for a doctorate in law as well as a master's degree in philosophy at UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico]. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 3 Dec 83 p 18-A] 7717

WARNINGS AGAINST U.S. INTERVENTION--If the United States invades Nicaragua and El Salvador, it will spread the conflict in Central America and will endanger world peace, according to the Salvadoran and Guatemalan committees for Labor Union Unity yesterday. They made "an urgent appeal for political and material aid and solidarity" to the countries and democratic organizations to stop those interventionist plans. They maintained that both nations are threatened "by the warmongering U.S. Government" which is reactivating CONDECA [Central American Defense Council] in order to intervene directly or covertly. "We alert the peoples of the world to the danger that our countries might be invaded." This would mean, among other consequences, a high social cost and the destruction of the labor union movement. At a press conference, the representatives in Mexico of the Salvadoran Committee for Labor Union Unity, Ricardo Villegas, and the Guatemalan committee, Israel Marquez and Francisco Paredes, pointed out that the first steps to finalize the interventionist plan have been taken with the quartering of U.S. troops at Honduran bases. According to them, the U.S. power circles, the multinational corporations and Pentagon and CIA officials want to repeat their criminal intervention of Grenada in Central America. They revealed that the U.S. Government would be able to use the puppet armies of Guatemala and Honduras, which it is manipulating, for the invasion. They concluded: "The objective of the interventionist plans is to stop our efforts to eliminate poverty and exploitation, the real causes of our fights for liberation." [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 14-A] 7717

CSO: 3248/310

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